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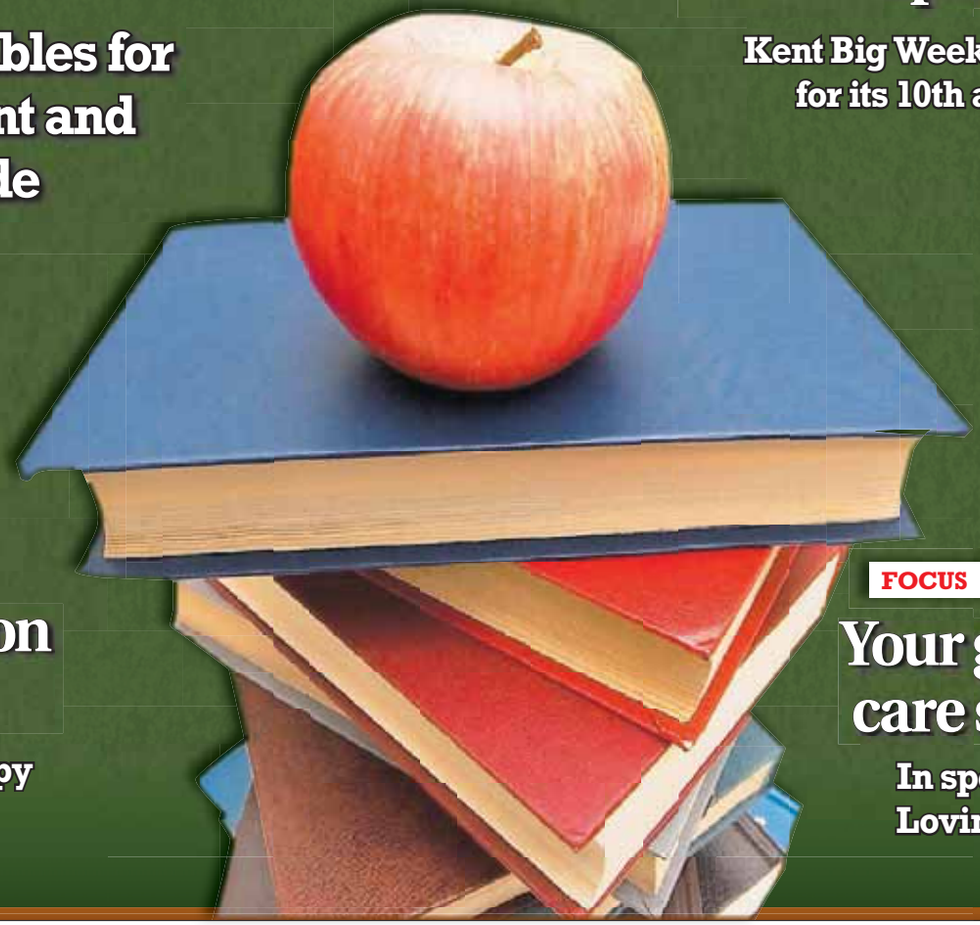
# Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk January 24, 2016
North & West edition No 696

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# Not easy reading, but let us not avoid inevitable

FOR a society which seems to pride itself on its acceptance of free speech and our apparent desire to be open and honest on everything we do in our lives, we continue to treat old age as taboo.

Whether it is through fear or simply a reminder of our own mortality, it seems that our ultimate, unavoidable, destiny - and the years leading up to it - remain spoken of only in hushed tones.

And in many ways it is understandable. After all, few, if any of us, welcome the inevitable embrace of death or that gradual decline in our health as our body starts to show wear and tear.

As a result of this, we find ourselves entering this strange unchartered territory only when someone close to use edges towards the end of their life and we have to step in to assist. We have to get to grips with care options we had previously not considered and, perhaps most jarringly for so many, the often colossal costs which go with it.

And until our collective gaze focuses upon that whole sector which deals with us in our winter years, the chances are we will all, one at a time, stagger blindly into that world and while emotionally vulnerable.

We may not want to face up to our final years, we may not want to face up to that of our loved ones...but to avoid to do so is an error.

Inside this weekend's edition, we take an overview of what is available out there and just how you can find out more information. Even if you don't need those sort of services, the frequently asked questions are worth reading, purely so you have an idea of what to expect.



Editor **Chris Britcher**


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PAGE 08 »


PAGE 07 »


PAGE 22 »


PAGE 19 »


PAGE 20 »


PAGE 27 »

# Contents


## News

07 **MPs in pylon power battle**
Vow to oppose plans for east Kent route

08 **Astronaut Piers' cancer**
Cranbrook schoolboy diagnosed

11 **Big Weekend FREE tickets**
Annual tourism event is back with a bang

12 **Kent school league tables**
All the GCSE results for our schools

19 **Cost of the Somme**
Reflections on the 100 year old bloodshed

20 **Return of the potholes**
Heavy rain and a cold snap spells trouble

22 **Former MP in Euro fight**
Laura Sandys says we must stay in Europe

25 **Club tackles heart defects**
Tonbridge Angels make a stand after two of their players die too early



PAGE 11 »


## Loving Care

27 **Your guide to late life care**
Answers to questions you need to know

29 **Tackling dementia**
What are the signs and care available?

## The Arts

33 **Warhorse rides in**
Classic show set for Marlowe date

## Plus

**Letters** ..... Page 42



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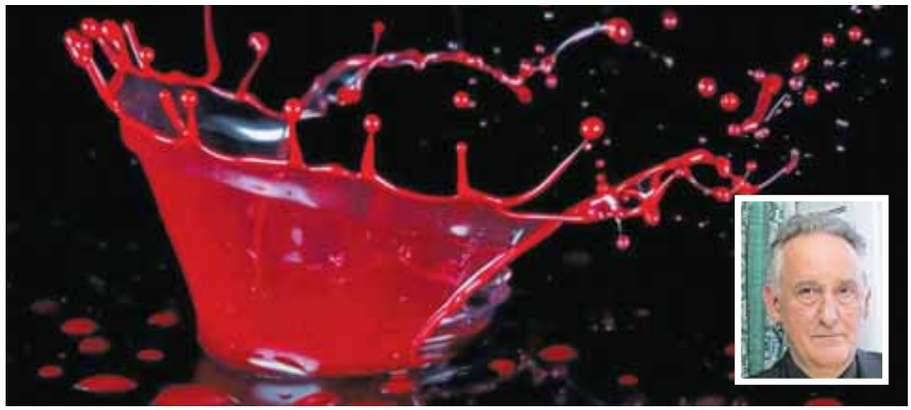
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# Blood victim's fury over delayed consultation

**By Chris Britcher**
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk



**ANGER:** Blood contamination scandal victim Steve Dymond, from Broadstairs

HEALTH minister Jane Ellison has finally launched a long over-due 12-week consultation into a compensation package for those caught up in the blood contamination scandal of the 1970s and 80s and pledged an additional £100 million.

But it has been blasted as "anything but a fair and open process" by one of the victims.

Steve Dymond, 59, from Broadstairs, received blood products from the NHS in the 1970s to treat haemophilia - which prevents the blood from clotting.

Like thousands of others with the condition, he was treated with a product called Factor VIII. However, the blood sourced in that product had been sourced from unchecked donors - including prisoners and drug addicts in the US. As a result, many haemophiliacs found themselves infected with HIV and, or, hepatitis C.

More than 2,000 had died prematurely as a result.

But despite an apology from David Cameron last year, the fight for justice and a realistic compensation package has been slow in coming.

Hopes were raised with Ms Ellison's announcement this week that proposals would extend annual payments to more people and give support to bereaved partners.

But it fails to deliver the sort of compensation package campaigners deserve.

Mr Dymond, who has just started chemotherapy for cancer caused by hep C's damage to his liver, told KoS this week:

"A 'full and open' consultation process proves to be anything but.

"How can you claim the consultation will be open when all the financial parameters have already been set in tablets of stone?

"Jane Ellison shows the sleight of hand of the old grizzled card sharper who has rigged the deck by removing all the face cards before the game starts.

"The £100m has been plundered from the overstretched health budget, spread over five years with no guarantee of future funding.

"Under these new proposals, my annual income for a life destroyed by the ravages of the contaminated blood scandal, will increase by £250 to £15,000. A most insulting and risible gesture from Jane Ellison which conveys her utter contempt and lack of compassion."

# Is TfL en route to take over a chunk of Kent's existing rail services?

PROPOSALS to change rail passenger services in London and parts of the south east have been announced this week by the Department for Transport (DfT).

And it could open the door to Transport for London (TfL) seeking to extend its reach outside of its traditional boundaries and as far as the Kent commuter belt at Sevenoaks.

A consultation to seek views on the proposal was launched by DfT in a bid to create more frequent rail services, better rail interchanges, increased rail capacity, greater reliability of rail services and high standards of customer service.

It claims this will be done by the transfer of rail services that operate mostly, or wholly, within the Greater London boundary to TfL when current franchises are up for renewal.

Southeastern's current franchise deal runs until 2018. While it is likely to come under pressure, changes to the boundaries of TfL's reach will have an impact on which ever firm secures the next contract.

DfT says that the transfer of inner suburban rail services to TfL, which is accountable to the mayor, would be introduced with service improvements for all and no detrimental effect on fares or longer distance services.

Sevenoaks Rail Transport Association (SRTA) chairman Tony Clayton said: "The SRTA has long supported bringing the TfL model and integrated ticketing to Sevenoaks, and our lobbying has helped local government recognise that this is the best way to go.

"We will be working with TfL, DfT and local government to ensure that these proposals are developed and implemented. What should make a real difference is that TfL's strategic approach is based on growing services rather than accepting old constraints."

A Southeastern spokesman said: "The specification and letting of rail contracts is a matter for government."

# Sinkhole continues to cause chaos on the busy A249

A DUAL carriageway is set to remain closed as Highways England await results of survey work to reveal the extent of damage.

Problems on the A249 near Sittingbourne started with a burst water main on January 12, which closed the northbound carriageway between the A2 and the Bobbing junction.

A spokesperson from Highways England explained: "We are still awaiting results from a geotechnical survey to understand the damage done to a pipe 15 metres below the surface."

Following the survey, which works by almost x-raying the surface, an assessment will be made to determine whether the road is safe for motorists to travel along.

# Worrying rise in women who miss cervical screening tests

HEALTH chiefs says too many women are missing out on potentially life-saving cervical cancer checks in the county.

The NHS says 25 per cent of women aged between 25 and 29 are not attending cervical screenings – despite the illness being most prevalent amongst the young.

What's more 20 per cent of women aged 50-65 are also steering clear.

Improved treatment and the NHS' national screening programme has seen the number of women dying from the form of cancer halve since 1989.

GP Dr Alison Milroy, said: "This test can detect pre-cancer abnormalities, which if left untreated, may develop into cancer. It is vital people attend."

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# seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

## Waitrose reveals plans for another Kent store

SUPERMARKET chain Waitrose has announced plans for another store in Maidstone.

It wants to build the store on the Eclipse Park site, close to junction seven of the M20, in a move which could create up to 200 new jobs.

The retailer, part of the John Lewis Partnership, has committed to retaining its existing Allington Park store.

A consultation into the plans is set to get under way, with local residents receiving leaflets as well as a public exhibition to be held next month.

If it gets the go-ahead, the store will take around 12 months to build and could open its doors in early 2018.

The proposed store would be on a 3.7 acre site, near to the Next Home store.

# CPRE slams lorry park plans as Operation Stack consultation set to close

**By Chris Britcher**
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE Kent branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE Kent) says a giant lorry park is not the solution to the dilemma posed by Operation Stack.

Instead it says the strain sparked by problems at the ports should be spread across the country and that other ports should be utilised for freight transport.

It comes as the final stages of a public consultation by Highways England into two possible sites at Stanford, just off the M20 junction 11 near Hythe, is taking place.

That proposes a giant lorry park to absorb the HGVs stuck when the ports are blocked or face delays. A combination of striking French ferry workers and migrants attempt to jump of Eurotunnel servies, saw crossings delayed and Stack introduced – which sees HGVs 'stacked' on the M20 motorway – closing stretches of the road to other traffic.



**JAM:** M20 turns into a lorry park

Deadline to have your say on those plans is midnight tomorrow (Monday). Neither option is assured. However, the chancellor George Osborne pledged £250m to help ease the issue in November

But CPRE Kent director Hilary Newport says a lorry park is a mistake. She said: "We do not think that a single huge lorry park, which may only be called into use for a few days – if at all – in any year is the answer.

"A better solution would offer real resilience to the logistics industry now and into the future and help not just Kent but the whole country cope with disruption, strikes or emergency, such as extreme weather, fire or security threats."

It wants, instead, a network of dispersed, serviced truck stops, which can absorb much of the strain when Stack is in force. It also wants to hold vehicles outside the Channel corridor until called forward by police.

It also says alternative entry points such as Ramsgate, Sheerness and Dartford should be use for freight.

Dr Newport said: "With modern technology and sophisticated international business operations, we are sure there is a better solution than allowing all the lorries to build up in Kent with no other way of reaching Europe than the Calais crossings."



**MONARCH:** Tribute to the Queen

## Bronze statue of the Queen for her 90th

GRAVESHAM council is commissioning a statue of the Queen for her 90th birthday this year – the first ever to show her seated.

The statue, which will show the monarch dressed in full Order of the Garter robes, will be life size and a half and made of bronze. It will be mounted on a stone plinth and funded entirely from private sponsorship.

World renowned sculptor Douglas Jennings has been commissioned to create the statue which is proposed to be displayed on upper St Andrew's Gardens appropriately facing Queen Street.

The site will require planning consent and is away from the area of the gardens which has been designated "village green".

The project has been developed over many months and details of the private funding of about £200,000 are still to be finalised.

Council leader John Cubitt said: "It will be a fitting tribute to our longest reigning monarch on a notable personal milestone.

"Everyone admires the Queen's dedication to carrying out her duties so diligently into a seventh decade. Our tribute will be dignified and will mark a special moment in the nation's history for generations to come."

## Jail for 18,000 vile child abuse images

A GILLINGHAM man who had close to 18,000 indecent images of children has been jailed for 16 months.

Aaron Langley, 32, was caught out when police received information indecent images were being uploaded to the internet from his home address.

Computers and equipment from his former home in Imperial Drive were seized last January, where he was also arrested on suspicion of being in possession of indecent images of children.

A total of 17,795 photographs and videos were discovered.

Investigating officer Jo-anne Gordon said: "In this case Langley accumulated a huge amount of indecent images and videos which showed children being subjected to horrific abuse.

"I hope he spends his time in prison reflecting upon the impact the material he was viewing has on the victims, who will have to deal with the psychological affects of this for the rest of their lives."

## Guilty: Driver dragged 100m in car horror

A 30-year-old has been found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving after he hit a man with his car in Swanley and then dragged him for 100 metres along the road.

Erasmus Ahwoi, from Croydon, had agreed to meet up with Thomas Rossiter, 42 in Hart Dyke Road on July 4 last year.

The pair were both in the car when an argument started, Mr Rossiter decided to leave the car, during which Ahwoi's car smashed into him, dragging him along the road.

Ahwoi was arrested six days later, after the car he was driving was traced back to a rental company in Croydon.

He was convicted this week at Maidstone Crown Court. He'll be sentenced next month.

Det Chief Insp Nick Gossett said: "Mr Rossiter found himself trapped underneath the car as Ahwoi made no attempt to stop the vehicle and fled the scene. He suffered a number of horrific injuries which ultimately led to his death."

## Friends Reunited to shut down for good

FRIENDS Reunited – the one-time internet phenomenon co-created by a businessman in Kent – has confirmed it is to close for good.

At one time more than 10 million people were registered for a site which many cite as one of the internet's first major social network success stories.

But its popularity tumbled and user numbers are now so low, its original owners , who returned to the company after selling it at its peak , confirmed it is to shut.

Friends Reunited, which was designed to reunite people from their school days or former workplaces, was created by the husband and wife team of Julie and Steve Pankhurst and businessman Jason Porter from Tunbridge Wells.

They drafted in Michael Murphy, who lived in Knockholt, near Sevenoaks, in 2003, as its chief executive. It was sold in 2006 for £120m to ITV, each founder pocketed £30m each.

According to Mr Pankhurst and Mr Jason Porter, the site had become just a "message board" for the few users who remain.

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# Power in a union as MPs team up to fight pylon route plans

**By Chris Britcher**
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

EAST Kent MPs have united in opposition against the controversial Richborough Connection electric pylon route.

The pylons will carry power from Richborough, near Sandwich, which will be receiving electricity pumped in from Belgium via the Nemo Link, to an electricity sub station in Canterbury.

Earlier this month the National Grid submitted an application to the planning inspectorate – a move which could see the scheme given the green light within a year.

South East Water has already expressed its disappointment that the route will run across a site earmarked for a major new reservoir at Broad Oak in Canterbury.

Now MPs whose constituencies will be affected have teamed up. In a joint statement, Conservative MPs Julian Brazier for Canterbury, Sir Roger Gale for North Thanet and Craig Mackinlay for South Thanet, said: "This line of proposed pylons would, if allowed to be erected, scar some of east Kent`s most beautiful landscapes with massive and intrusive structures, would effectively prohibit the building of a vital Broad Oak reservoir designed to provide the are with its future water supply and would culminate in a monstrosity towering over the historic Canterbury city skyline at a height above Canterbury Cathedral.



**ROUTE:** Power route would stretch from Richborough to Canterbury

"Of course we recognise the need to 'keep the lights on' but this scheme is neither desirable nor necessary.

"If it is necessary to import power from Germany at considerable loss enroute then there is a perfectly viable undersea route from Zeebrugge to Kingsnorth that could connect to the National Grid with no need for unsightly infrastructure whatsoever.

"We shall, together, be lodging objections to this proposal and we hope that, rather than wasting further money on consultation and an inquiry, it will be denied the oxygen of further consideration.

Steve Self, project manager at National Grid, said: "We believe our final proposal strikes the right balance between everything we've been told, the planning and environmental guidelines we have to follow and the engineering needed to build the connection."

## £18m mental health hospital proposed

SOME 150 jobs could be created after a planning application was submitted for a multi-million pound mental health hospital in Maidstone.

Private firm Cygnet Health Care wants to build the site on the Kent medical campus development just off junction seven of the M20.

The hospital would see investment of around £18m and fit in among other health and social care facilities on the site.

## Terraced house hid cannabis factory

POLICE have uncovered more than 350 cannabis plants being cultivated in a terraced house in Canterbury.

The hydroponic cannabis factory, comprising 142 mature plants and 200 saplings, was discovered after a raid on a property in Wincheap last Saturday after reports of suspicious behaviour.

## Labour beats Ukip

LABOUR has secured a seat from Ukip after a by-election at Thanet District Council.

The Newington ward was left open after Ukip's Vince Munday resigned from the majority party.

Labour's Karen Constantine polled 288 votes to Ukip candidate Duncan Smith's 229. Ukip has 26 seats on the council, the Tories 19. Labour has five.


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# Astronaut Piers, 60, reveals he is suffering from cancer

PIERS Sellers, the Nasa astronaut who attended school in Kent before making a number of trips into space has revealed he has pancreatic cancer and been told he has only 12 to months left to live.

The 60-year-old was born in Crowborough just over the Kent/East Sussex border and attended Cranbrook School.

Since joining NASA and taking US citizenship, he has visited the International Space Station on three occasions and walked in space six times on missions which flew between 2002 and 2010.

He was diagnosed in October.

Now deputy director of sciences and exploration at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and acting director of its Earth sciences division in the US, he revealed his



illness publicly in an article with the New York Times on climate change.

He told the BBC: "It did motivate me to concentrate my thoughts.

"I'd been feeling rough for about six or nine months, getting progressively more ill.

"The outlook in terms of expected longevity was a bit of a shocker. They say I have between 12 to 18 months."

# English teacher hits out at PM's Muslim comments

A COMMUNITY language provider in Kent has slammed the prime minister's comments this week calling for Muslim women needing to learn how to speak English.

And she has now called for Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn to bring him to account.

Dr Sheila Macdonald, company director of Beyond the Page, from Ramsgate, said singling out Muslim women was "discriminatory and damaging".

She said: "Cameron's hypocrisy in this regard is breathtaking. Under current rules, those entering the UK on spousal visas are not entitled to enter English language classes for three years unless they pay exorbitant foreign student fees. So how are they supposed to learn?

"That is why we are calling on Jeremy Corbyn to support the widespread provision of high-quality, accessible, affordable ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) for all women and men arriving into the UK, and to strongly condemn the prime minister's discriminatory, separatist rhetoric on this important issue."

The PM announced earlier this week that Muslim women who failed to improve their English language skills could be deported as part of a drive to build community integration and counter extremism, with a £20 million language fund being set up to help.

However, fellow Tory MPs said the government should not have to foot the bill.

## Cosmonaut contest win

A UNIVERSITY of Kent physics student has won a competition to take part in cosmonaut training in Moscow.

Greg Smith will attend the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre to develop team building and communication skills by training like the real cosmonauts.

## Unexploded bomb found

SNARGATE Street in Dover was closed on Tuesday after an unexploded wartime bomb was discovered near the marina.

A bomb disposal team was summoned and contained the shell before leaving the scene two hours later, once the area was made safe.

## CCG holds public event

THE NHS West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will hold a public meeting of its management group on Tuesday.

Those attending can pose questions. It takes place at the Mercure Hotel in Pembury at 1.30pm. Call 01732 375200 if you want to pose a question.

## McDonnell in Ramsgate

SHADOW chancellor John McDonnell addressed an audience in Ramsgate on Tuesday night, encouraging local people to produce their own ideas to revive their own areas.

He addressed a 300-strong meeting of the newly formed Momentum Thanet group.


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## Top Three Stories



### 1. 32 months for burglar

Daniel Howe, 20, threatened his victims

### 2. Chinese celebrations

Year of the Monkey coming to Gravesend

### 3. Car crash killer jailed

George Claudiu Albu received eight years

## The Essential Guide:



### ...to Operation Stack

Everything you need to know as the lorry park row rumbles on



**FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY:** Tributes were paid to musical icon and former Beckenham resident David Bowie, who died last week.

## Missed last week's...?

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## Top Three Blogs



### 1. Don't fret about exams

There's more to life than GCSE results

### 2. Straight outta uni

A young man's transition to the real world

### 3. Lorry lane needed

Why HGV drivers make us fume

## Results of the *KoS* Online Poll

### What should be England's national anthem in sport?

1. God Save the Queen - 18%
2. Jerusalem - 56%
3. Land of Hope and Glory - 24%
4. We are the champions - 2%





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# It's back and bigger than ever: Kent's Big Weekend

More than 25,000 FREE tickets are up for grabs as the annual tourism event celebrates its 10th birthday in style with a Willy Wonka-style golden ticket giveaway. **Chris Britcher** finds out more









**CHOICE:** From castles and cathedrals to wildlife and spills and thrills on the race track, there is plenty to choose from with this year's giveaway.

REGISTRATION has opened for one of the most eagerly anticipated ticket giveaways of the year as the hugely popular Kent Big Weekend returns in style to celebrate its 10th anniversary.

The annual event is now used to kick-start the county's tourism trade each year with thousands of families taking advantage to nab themselves free tickets to some of Kent's top attraction.

And to mark its big birthday, not only will there be more than 25,000 tickets available, but also, for the first time, 10 special golden tickets will be up for grabs offering year-long access to a host of attractions the lucky recipients.

The Willy Wonka-style special tickets will be hidden at 10 venues and given, at random, to one person redeeming their Big Weekend ticket.

Organised by Visit Kent, the county's tourism champions, and taking place this year over the weekend of March 12-13, the event is designed to highlight to the county the delights on their doorsteps - and hope they then spread the message to visitng friends and family during the rest of the year.

Visit Kent's chief executive, Sandra Matthews-Marsh, explained: "Since we launched our annual celebration of Kent's tourism industry in 2007, attractions have donated more and more tickets each year, so we now have a record-breaking number of activities to share with Kent residents in 2016.

"And as it's our birthday, we also have a few extra 'presents' to give away.

"Kent Big Weekend is all about encouraging residents to get out and about to discover – or rediscover – the wonderful things to see and do in their home county, and to spread the word about just how much Kent has to offer."

A total of 119 tourist attractions and related businesses are taking part in this year's event with a maximum of two tickets - including some family passes - available per household.

All tickets are selected through a ballot. To see the range of attractions you can visit and to register for tickets, visit the website www.kentbigweekend.co.uk. As all are selected by a ballot, there is no rush, but the closing date for all entries is February 14. Those successful will be notified shortly afterwards.

Some of the county's biggest attractions have signed up to this year's event, including Port Lympne and Howletts wild animal parks, Canterbury Cathedral, Hever Castle, Leeds Castle, Ashford Designer Outlet, Aylesford Pottery, The Canterbury Tales, Quex Park, Penshurst Place & Gardens, Rochester Castle, Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, Dover Castle, Tonbridge Castle, Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway, Brogdale Collections, Dreamland Margate, Turner Contemporary, the Historic Dockyard Chatham, Buckmore Park Karting Ltd, Riverhill Himalayan Gardens, Lullingstone Roman Villa, several National Trust properties and Chapel Down, Biddenden and Hush Heath vineyards.

More than 4,000 additional tickets have also been donated by attractions to the event's chosen charity - The Family Holiday Association – double the amount donated last year.

Experiences on offer include activities and impressive displays for animal lovers, museum tours, brewery and vineyard tours and tastings, jet skiing or scuba diving tasters, rounds of golf, greyhound racing, cricket match tickets, pottery classes and ceramic art, river tours, railway adventures, and shopping experiences.

Kent on Sunday is one of the media supporters of the initiative.






# Why both grammars and non selectives have misfired in 2015

Full league tables of our state schools were issued this week and made for interesting reading top and bottom. Our education columnist examines them

**By Peter Read**

www.kentadvice.co.uk

STATE school educated children in Kent and Medway both maintain their above average performance at GCSE and A Level, according to the latest figures.

Nationally, 57.1 per cent of children achieved five GCSEs grades A*-C, including English and maths, up from 56.6 per cent last year.

However, both have slipped this year, Kent from 58.1 per cent down to 57.3 per cent, whilst Medway has declined from 58.8 per cent to 57.8 per cent.

At A Level, Kent is above national average on point score per A Level entry, and below on percentage of students achieving three A Levels. In Medway, measures are generally slightly below national averages.

The government twist on the GCSE story, that any school below the government floor target of 40 per cent gaining five grades A*-C including English and maths, is failing is simply not valid in a selective county such as Kent.

This is because on average 25 children out of every 100, all of whom should have reached the floor target, are taken away from our non-selective schools.

Simple arithmetic shows that removing these brings the floor target for non-selective schools down to 20 per cent and by that measure, all but four in Kent are succeeding. My bigger concern is that too many selective schools are under achieving.

For me, the outstanding Kent highlights are: High Weald Academy in Cranbrook, at 59 per cent, up from 31 per cent in 2014, seventh best non-selective in Kent, still suffering from unfair lack of popularity with parents, dating back to its pre academy status as an Ofsted failed school; Bennett Memorial in Tunbridge Wells, at 72 per cent still regularly the highest performing non-selective school in Kent; Folkestone School for Girls, one of just two grammar schools with 100 per cent, with Chatham Grammar School for Boys, on 99 per cent, best performing Medway grammar, but in special measures just two years previously; and Dover Grammar School for Girls; the highest performing school in Kent at A Level, by point score per student comes above all the prestigious and super-selective grammar schools.

My rule of thumb is that all grammar schools should average at least 98 per cent for five GCSEs at A*-C, with an occasional dip as low as 96 per cent, allowing for issues with individual children such as illness.

At the top come Dartford Grammar and Folkestone School for Girls with 100 per cent, followed by another ten with 99 per cent: Chatham Grammar School for Boys, Cranbrook, Dartford Girls, Invicta, Judd, Rochester, Skinners, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells Girls, and Weald of Kent.

Shockingly, eight grammar schools have achieved less than 95 per cent: Borden Grammar (consistently), Barton Court (one off), Sir Joseph Williamson's (one off) all on 94 per cent; Dane Court Grammar (second consecutive year), Dover Grammar School for Boys (not above 94 per cent for at least the past five years), Sir Roger Manwood's (for the past three years) 92 per cent; Oakwood Park Grammar 91 per cent (one off); and Chatham Girls 88 per cent (another one off).

For non-selectives, as usual, the Kent table is dominated by three faith schools: Bennett Memorial Diocesan 72 per cent, (although on a steady decline over the past four years from 86 per cent; St Simon Stock Catholic, 66 per cent; and St Gregory's Catholic, also down from an average in the 70s over the previous four years, at 64 per cent.

Next are a much improved Hayesbrook School, together with Hillview Girls at 61 per cent; followed by Westlands on 60 per cent, High Weald 59 per cent and Valley Park on 58 per cent.

Wrotham School is on 57 per cent, two schools with good improvement being Dartford Science and Technology College, also 57 per cent and Skinners Kent Academy on 56 per cent.

In Medway, Thomas Aveling improving year on year is top with 59 per cent, with Hundred of Hoo on 54 per cent.

Non selective schools have received a double whammy as government no longer counts students who have improved their grades by repeating subjects (an important incentive for students for whom success may not come naturally) and no longer counts some practical and creative subjects (often taken by students with aptitudes here) forcing a focus on academic subjects only.

Sadly, this will act as a disincentive for too many young people whose aptitudes lie outside formal study.

The struggling schools nearly all show a sharp decline over the past few years: Marlowe Academy, 6 per cent (now closed); St George's CofE Foundation, Thanet, one of the most oversubscribed schools in the county,

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 14**

## Kent Schools Table 1

| Rank* | School | No. of pupils eligible for GCSE and equivalent qualifications | proportion securing five or more A*-C grades | total average points per pupil | % achieving the English Baccalaureate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | The Folkestone School for G irls | 146 | 100% | 595.1 | 65% |
| 2 | Dartford Grammar School | 151 | 100% | 553.2 | 98% |
| 3 | The Skinners' School Tunbridge Wells | 123 | 99% | 583.3 | 88% |
| 4 | The Judd School Tonbridge | 129 | 99% | 568.0 | 87% |
| 5 | Weald of Kent Grammar School Tonbridge | 66 | 99% | 566.0 | 83% |
| 6 | Tunbridge Wells Girls' Gr ammar School | 147 | 99% | 554.7 | 93% |
| 7 | Cranbrook School Cranbrook | 147 | 99% | 553.7 | 78% |
| 8 | Dartford Grammar School for Girls | 165 | 99% | 547.8 | 74% |
| 9 | Invicta Grammar School Maidstone | 174 | 99% | 520.1 | 64% |
| 10 | Tonbridge Grammar School | 146 | 99% | 355.7 | 0% |
| 11 | Highworth Grammar School Ashford | 182 | 98% | 567.9 | 88% |
| 12 | Wilmington Grammar School for Girls Dartford | 122 | 98% | 530.1 | 87% |
| 13 | Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys Canterbury | 127 | 98% | 484.1 | 80% |
| 14 | Highsted Grammar School Sittingbourne | 126 | 98% | 473.9 | 83% |
| 15 | Maidstone Grammar School for Girls | 177 | 97% | 607.1 | 90% |
| 16 | Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys | 181 | 97% | 485.8 | 67% |
| 17 | Mayfield Grammar School, Gravesend | 146 | 97% | 447.9 | 51% |
| 18 | Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School Ramsgate | 161 | 96% | 470.9 | 55% |
| 19 | Wilmington Grammar School for Boys Dartford | 122 | 96% | 468.0 | 40% |
| 20 | Maidstone Grammar School | 176 | 96% | 433.4 | 0% |
| 21 | Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School Faversham | 120 | 95% | 560.8 | 69% |
| 22 | The Norton Knatchbull School Ashford | 148 | 95% | 515.7 | 67% |
| 23 | Gravesend Grammar School | 154 | 95% | 504.2 | 64% |
| 24 | Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School Canterbury | 153 | 95% | 484.4 | 76% |
| 25 | Dover Grammar School for Girls | 114 | 95% | 483.1 | 80% |
| 26 | The Harvey Grammar School Folkestone | 137 | 95% | 465.0 | 42% |
| 27 | Barton Court Grammar School Canterbury | 126 | 94% | 509.9 | 78% |
| 28 | Borden Grammar School Sittingbourne | 107 | 94% | 491.0 | 65% |
| 29 | Sir Roger Manwood's School Sandwich | 129 | 93% | 531.5 | 72% |
| 30 | Dane Court Grammar School Broadstairs | 174 | 93% | 494.9 | 72% |
| 31 | Dover Grammar School for Boys | 118 | 93% | 453.0 | 31% |
| 32 | Oakwood Park Grammar School Maidstone | 152 | 91% | 539.1 | 58% |
| 33 | Bennett Memorial Diocesan School Tunbridge Wells | 232 | 72% | 457.7 | 43% |
| 34 | Sackville School Tonbridge | 24 | 71% | 401.5 | 21% |
| 35 | Canterbury Steiner School | 19 | 68% | 299.9 | 26% |
| 36 | St Simon Stock Catholic School Maidstone | 164 | 66% | 42 1.8 | 30% |
| 37 | St Gregory's Catholic School Tunbridge Wells | 182 | 64% | 412.4 | 19% |
| 38 | Hillview School for Girls Tonbridge | 190 | 61% | 385.6 | 23% |
| 39 | The Hayesbrook School Tonbridge | 156 | 61% | 345.2 | 12% |
| 40 | Westlands School Sittingbourne | 287 | 60% | 344.2 | 16% |
| 41 | Cobham Hall Gravesend | 15 | 60% | 258.3 | 0% |
| 42 | Valley Park School Maidstone | 210 | 59% | 376.3 | 20% |
| 43 | High Weald Academy Cranbrook | 116 | 59% | 319.3 | 5% |
| 44 | Bethany School Cranbrook | 79 | 58% | 322.5 | 10% |
| 45 | Gad's Hill School Rochester | 51 | 57% | 361.8 | 27% |
| 46 | Dartford Science & Technology College | 134 | 57% | 334.2 | 27% |
| 47 | Wrotham School Sevenoaks | 134 | 57% | 333.9 | 7% |
| 48 | Skinners' Kent Academy Tunbridge Wells | 63 | 56% | 349.1 | 13% |
| 49 | St John's Catholic Comprehensive Gravesend | 172 | 55% | 305.9 | 2% |
| 50 | The Ebbsfleet Academy Swanscombe | 135 | 54% | 316.5 | 4% |
| 51 | St Anselm's Catholic School Canterbury | 175 | 53% | 379.1 | 22% |
| 52 | Thamesview School Gravesend | 137 | 53% | 326.7 | 20% |
| 53 | Longfield Academy Longfield | 170 | 52% | 362.2 | 7% |
| 54 | St Edmund's School Canterbury | 79 | 52% | 314.2 | 23% |
| 55 | Mascalls School Tonbridge | 244 | 51% | 363.6 | 17% |
| 56 | Fulston Manor School Sittingbourne | 186 | 51% | 356.8 | 12% |
| 57 | Orchards Academy Swanley | 80 | 51% | 350.5 | 6% |
| 58 | Saint George's CoE School Gravesend | 168 | 51% | 335.1 | 23% |
| 59 | Duke of York's Royal Military School Dover | 90 | 51% | 306.3 | 9% |
| 60 | Knole Academy Sevenoaks | 213 | 50% | 353.2 | 7% |
| 61 | Focus School - Linton Park Campus Maidstone | 16 | 50% | 338.4 | 31% |
| 62 | Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre Tenterden | 355 | 50% | 314.9 | 12% |
| 63 | Northfleet School for Girls Gravesend | 153 | 49% | 321.8 | 20% |
| 64 | The Archbishop's School Canterbury | 140 | 48% | 335.3 | 26% |
| 65 | Northfleet Technology College Gravesend | 140 | 48% | 303.2 | 7% |
| 66 | The Abbey School Faversham | 153 | 46% | 357.1 | 13% |
| 67 | The Maplesden Noakes School Maidstone | 175 | 46% | 323.9 | 19% |
| 68 | Wilmington Academy, Wilmington | 138 | 46% | 300.1 | 13% |
| 69 | King Ethelbert School Birchington | 141 | 45% | 345.5 | 9% |

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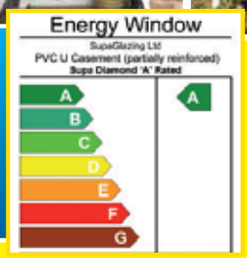

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**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12**

12 per cent; Pent Valley Technology College, almost certainly closing this summer, 15 per cent; Spires Academy 17 per cent all fall below my adjusted floor target. Other schools below 25 per cent are: Ellington and Hereson now renamed Royal Harbour Academy at 23 per cent; followed by The North and Oasis Isle of Sheppey Academy.

Ashford's The North, placed in special measures two years ago when at 42 per cent, has sadly declined ever since to 24 per cent under new management, whilst Sheppey has actually improved over the previous year when it was second worst in the county at 19 per cent. Robert Napier on 26 per cent is the lowest performing Medway school.

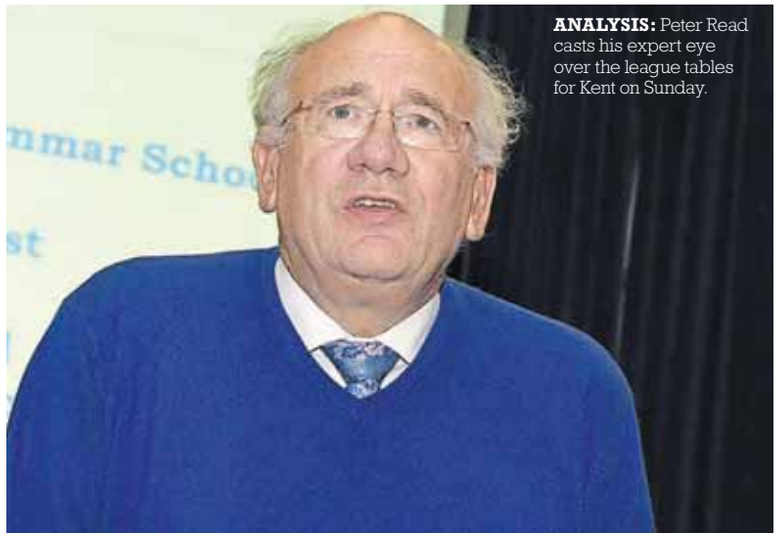
One of the problems with comparing A Level scores and pass rates is that they are so dependent on the entrance level to the school, as too many schools keep raising this in terms of GCSE grades to be achieved, in order to recruit the students most likely to get good grades.

This reduces opportunity and is true both of many non-selective schools as well as grammars, so that students capable of achieving A Level passes albeit at lower grades are deprived of the opportunity. The traditional alternative route via further education colleges has now been closed completely by some colleges, including MidKent and North West Kent.

With this constraint in mind, the best performing schools measured by A Level points per student are: Dover Grammar School for Girls; Invicta; Highsted; Judd; and Mayfield, with Rochester Grammar some way behind top in Medway.

For the non-selectives, some high scoring schools may have benefitted by a small number of entries, but others have almost caught the lowest grammar schools, Dover Grammar Boys, 741 points per student entry, and Gravesend Grammar 748.8 tied with Duke of York's Royal Military School. Next comes Rainham school for Girls with 742.6 Bennett Memorial with 731.6, followed by Mascalls; John Wallis CofE; Knole Academy; Westlands; and Hillview Girls.

**■ Peter Read, pictured below, is an independent education advisor and former headteacher in Gravesend. You can read more on his website at www.kentadvice.co.uk and in regular columns in KoS.**



**ANALYSIS:** Peter Read casts his expert eye over the league tables for Kent on Sunday.

# Mixed fortunes for our schools forever skewed by the selective system

**By Tom Pyman**
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

KENT County Council has praised the performance of non-selective schools in the county, and welcomed changes to the league tables next year.

When results are released in 2017, a new way of measuring GCSE performance, called Progress 8, will be introduced, to determine how well students have done in a range of core GCSEs in relation to where they were when they started secondary school.

That should finally give non-grammars in the county the chance to show the progress they are making with their in-take; a figure so absent in the current league tables.

With Kent's selective system, our non-selectives will always be at a disadvantage to comprehensives elsewhere in the country.

Roger Gough, cabinet member for education and health reform at KCC, told KoS: "It's very encouraging to see an overall trend of Kent schools performing above the national average.

"We came down a little bit on last year but the performance of Kent students in the aggregate score was pretty strong.

"You're always going to have some doing well and some hitting problems, and I think some were a little wrong-footed by big changes in 2014 and they seem to have bounced back extremely well."

That was when many equivalent examinations which were once counted as more than one GCSE could no longer be counted towards the league tables – a move which left many schools, in particular those who had a more vocational focus, tumbling down the table.

Adds Cllr Gough: "Grammar schools will always come in with high grades, and you would expect nothing less given they take - broadly speaking – the academically stronger students, but there are many non-selectives that also performed fantastically.

"From the students' point of view, they calculate success with what qualifications they

leave with, however, to really understand how a school is doing you have to take into account progress.

"You want to see that 40 per cent benchmark achieved, and a lot of high schools do, but an absolute measure would be to look at its progress - if it is falling through the floor in that regard then it's a concern."

The Bennett Memorial in Tunbridge Wells has consistently been one of the strongest performing non-selectives in the county, and again recorded impressive results with 72 per cent of students securing five GCSEs between A*-C grades including English and maths, much to the delight of executive headteacher Ian Bauckham.

He said: "GCSEs are getting tougher all the time, and expectations are rising.

"It is fantastic that Bennett's students once again perform at the very highest level in this context.

"These exceptional achievements are secured by strong focus on hard work, traditional subjects, very good teaching that enables all students to master the important content of the subject, regardless of ability or starting point, and teachers with very high expectations of students' ability to achieve.

"Nothing but the best is good enough.

"However, we are, as a school, also committed to developing the whole person, character and personal resilience, and we do this through a vast range of activities and opportunities outside the formal curriculum.

"Music is a huge part of every Bennett student's life, as are sport, drama, debating, public speaking, and charity work.

"All of this is underpinned by our church ethos and together makes a fully rounded and well educated young person."

Another high-performing non-selective was the High Weald Academy in Cranbrook. Formerly Angley, it has seen its results continue to rise in recent years.

Principal, Carrie Beech said: "We are really pleased to get our highest set of results to date.

"The tables put us in the top ten in the country amongst similar schools which is a fantastic achievement.

"That's a reflection of the hard work of our teachers and students.

"We know the benchmark is raised year on year so it's a constant challenge to get the highest grades.

"Last year we had a student get five A* grades and five As which any grammar school would be proud of."

Failure to reach a 40 per cent pass rate for the five GCSEs at A*-C grade and including English to maths, is beneath the government's benchmark and can spark intervention.

Bottom of the pile in the table is the Marlowe Academy in Ramsgate. It hit just six per cent. Coupled with an understandable major drop off in demand, the academy – one of the first of the original breed – was forced to admit defeat last year. It was taken over by neighbouring Ellington and Hereson School.

Renamed the Royal Harbour Academy last September, it is now, hopefully, on the road to recovery, with students being taught across both campuses.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 16**

## Kent Schools - Part 2

| Rank* | School | No. of pupils eligible for GCSE and equivalent qualifications | proportion securing five or more A*-C grades | total average points per pupil | % achieving the English Baccalaureate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 70 | Sandwich Technology School Sandwich | 243 | 44% | 364.2 | 6% |
| 71 | St Edmund's Catholic School Dover | 119 | 44% | 357.2 | 7% |
| 72 | Chaucer Technology School Canterbury | 131 | 44% | 351.4 | 20% |
| 73 | Ursuline College, Westgate-on-Sea | 119 | 44% | 340.0 | 4% |
| 74 | The Leigh Academy Dartford | 231 | 43% | 404.8 | 12% |
| 75 | Brockhill Park Performing Arts College Hythe | 213 | 43% | 393.9 | 5% |
| 76 | Dover College, Dover | 24 | 42% | 294.0 | 13% |
| 77 | Meopham School Gravesend | 116 | 41% | 350.4 | 11% |
| 78 | Dover Christ Church Academy | 98 | 41% | 292.2 | 0% |
| 79 | The John Wallis CoE Academy, Ashford | 133 | 41% | 291.8 | 10% |
| 80 | Folkestone Academy | 233 | 41% | 284.2 | 3% |
| 81 | Sittingbourne Community College | 207 | 40% | 310.5 | 12% |
| 82 | Hugh Christie Technology College, Tonbridge | 200 | 40% | 302.4 | 8% |
| 83 | Castle Community College Deal | 224 | 38% | 311.5 | 1% |
| 84 | Cornwallis Academy Maidstone | 248 | 38% | 297.3 | 12% |
| 85 | Herne Bay High School | 260 | 37% | 337.8 | 12% |
| 86 | Hartsdown Academy Margate | 148 | 36% | 283.4 | 2% |
| 87 | The Canterbury Academy | 190 | 36% | 242.8 | 2% |
| 88 | The Marsh Academy New Romney | 133 | 35% | 350.4 | 6% |
| 89 | Hadlow Rural Community School | 17 | 35% | 296.1 | 12% |
| 90 | St Augustine Academy, Maidstone | 98 | 34% | 275.2 | 9% |
| 91 | New Line Learning Academy Maidstone | 101 | 33% | 257.2 | 9% |
| 92 | Towers School and Sixth Form Centre Ashford | 231 | 32% | 305.8 | 9% |
| 93 | Holmesdale Technology College Snodland | 164 | 30% | 357.6 | 2% |
| 94 | The Malling School West Malling | 88 | 30% | 298.3 | 2% |
| 95 | The Charles Dickens School Broadstairs | 227 | 30% | 273.3 | 9% |
| 96 | Aylesford School - Sports College | 179 | 30% | 245.9 | 0% |
| 97 | Astor College, Dover | 170 | 29% | 264.5 | 0% |
| 98 | The Community College, Whitstable | 109 | 28% | 284.6 | 10% |
| 99 | Sutton Valence School, Maidstone | 70 | 26% | 358.1 | 24% |
| 100 | Swadelands School Maidstone | 121 | 26% | 299.9 | 12% |
| 101 | Oasis Academy Hextable | 96 | 26% | 256.5 | 0% |
| 102 | Oasis Academy Isle of Sheppey Minster-on-Sea | 320 | 25% | 248.0 | 3% |
| 103 | The North School Ashford | 205 | 24% | 297.8 | 2% |
| 104 | The Ellington and Hereson School Ramsgate | 114 | 23% | 287.2 | 3% |
| 105 | Spires Academy Canterbury | 107 | 17% | 220.4 | 0% |
| 106 | Pent Valley Technology College Folkestone | 170 | 15% | 164.3 | 1% |
| 107 | St George's CoE Foundation School Broadstairs | 205 | 12% | 333.4 | 2% |
| 108 | The Marlowe Academy Ramsgate | 122 | 6% | 173.4 | 1% |

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**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15**

Headteacher Simon Pullen insisted the change has been positive, students have responded well, and that the academy has a bright future.

He said: "We have issues with the league tables because they only print results of the first attempt.

"It suggests the students should only take the exams once which is illogical and, of course, not the case.

"Very often our students perform a lot better at the second attempt, because as any of them will tell you, mock exams simply aren't the same.

"You wouldn't dream of telling a young person they could only have one attempt at passing their driving test and that if they didn't pass that would be it, and I think the same should apply to education.

"There are a lot of other factors, too, including the fact the grade boundaries shifted and we thought there was some erratic marking in some papers, but generally we're making real progress, particularly in maths and English.

"The merge has gone well but we have been quite used to transformation of this kind over the years.

"One of the fears of parents perhaps was that there would be warring tribes between the schools but that hasn't been the case at all.

"Adapting to change is hard work for everybody, but being a teacher and working in a school is hard work full stop and we're going to continue to work hard to improve year-on-year."

Pent Valley in Folkestone also suffered poor scores with just 15 per cent. Again, with a resulting fall in demand for places, a consultation is currently under way which is likely to result in the school closing by the end of the current academic year. Like the Chaucer in Canterbury before it, the site will likely be mothballed and re-opened under a different name when the increase in primary school students starts to spill into the secondary sector.

The Community College Whitstable was also feeling the winds of change blow through it this week.

After posting a 28 per cent pass rate, it now looks likely to be consumed by the Swale Academies Trust. It already runs the Westlands primary and secondary schools in Milton Regis and the Sittingbourne Community College, as well as other schools in Ashford, Maidstone and Istead Rise.

Head teacher Helena Sullivan-Tighe was suspended from her post in November following a disappointing Ofsted report which rated it as 'requires improvement'.

Like the management of the big Premier League football teams, increasingly teachers in the top jobs need to deliver results that don't leave them languishing down the bottom of the table, if they want to keep their jobs.

Unsurprisingly, the county's grammar schools dominated the top 30 positions in the league table - and a similar pattern was apparent in Medway.

With the provisional scores released at the end of last year, this week's result were of little surprise to many. The repercussions of some performances, however, will continue to be felt for many months.



**OVER:** The Marlowe Academy was bottom of the league table in the county - but closed for good last September

## Medway Schools

| Rank* | School | No. of pupils eligible for GCSE and equivalent qualifications | proportion securing five or more A*-C grades | total average points per pupil | % achieving the English Baccalaureate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | The Rochester Grammar School | 168 | 99% | 576.0 | 91% |
| 2 | Chatham Grammar School for Boys | 106 | 99% | 516.6 | 57% |
| 3 | Rainham Mark Grammar School Gillingham | 178 | 97% | 591.1 | 66% |
| 4 | Fort Pitt Grammar School Chatham | 117 | 96% | 503.2 | 53% |
| 5 | Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School Rochester | 177 | 94% | 546.2 | 79% |
| 6 | Chatham Grammar School for Girls | 129 | 88% | 534.1 | 57% |
| 7 | The Thomas Aveling School Rochester | 174 | 59% | 401.3 | 10% |
| 8 | The Hundred of Hoo Academy Rochester | 237 | 54% | 314.7 | 24% |
| 9 | The Howard School Gillingham | 243 | 52% | 376.5 | 19% |
| 10 | Greenacre School Chatham | 147 | 50% | 339.9 | 4% |
| 11 | Rainham School for Girls Gillingham | 267 | 49% | 408.8 | 17% |
| 12 | Walderslade Girls' School Chatham | 154 | 42% | 356.2 | 3% |
| 13 | Strood Academy | 226 | 41% | 313.2 | 0% |
| 14 | Brompton Academy Gillingham | 186 | 39% | 324.5 | 7% |
| 15 | The Victory Academy Chatham | 172 | 38% | 275.1 | 4% |
| 16 | St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School Chatham | 167 | 34% | 293.9 | 7% |
| 17 | The Robert Napier School, Gillingham | 236 | 26% | 275.1 | 0% |

*within its local authority




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**TRAGEDY:** The graves of thousands of fallen soldiers line the fields of France - so many of which were cut down during the war of attrition 100 years ago this year.

# Regiments' sacrifice at the most brutal of all Great War battles

## An historian will deliver a talk next month focusing on two Kent regiments and their role at the Battle of the Somme during the First World War. **Chris Murphy** speaks to him about the French bloodbath

THIS summer will mark the 100th anniversary of one of the bloodiest battles in history.

Waged near the Somme River in France from July 1 to November 1, 1916, it remains not only a defining moment in global warfare, but epitomises the colossal loss of life during the First World War.

It is estimated that by the end of the Battle of the Somme some 1.25 million men been killed or injured.

The British, it is estimated, suffered 57,000 casualties on the first day alone.

It was intended to be so different.

Under the guidance of Field Marshall Douglas Haig, who was commander during the battle, Allied artillery had fired more than a million shells at German lines in the week prior to a planned advance on a 15 mile German front.

The plan was simple. Bomb them into submission, then send troops slowly over ground to claim the territory.

But the Germans had been ready for the bombardment and the trenches well protected. What's more many of the British shells had failed to detonate.

And when men were sent 'over the top' to advance on the enemy, they were torn down by machine gun fire in their thousands.

Dr Martin Watts is the principal research fellow at the centre for research in Kent history and archaeology at Canterbury Christ Church University.

Next month he will deliver a major talk on the battle with a special focus on two Kent regiments who took part in the bloodbath.

He told us: "The German trenches were for defence and were considered to be permanent positions, so were well protected.

"The British positions were offensive, so were at best seen only as temporary positions and were not built as well. That meant artillery assaults from the German positions were very effective.

"Many of our soldiers were not well trained or experienced. Once the men were ordered to go over the top they were told to walk towards the enemy lines to maintain cohesion, but that just meant the German machine guns were able to cut them down so much easily.

"I just can't imagine what this could have been like for the British soldier. I read some diaries, and many speak of being sent over the parapet and within seconds, their platoon is gone. They retreat, form up again and do it all once more the next day.

"This was a battle of attrition. It was almost like the last man standing would be the winner. When you attack, it is accepted you need a ratio of three men against one, and that wasn't always the case during the Somme.

"And so the British and Imperial army casualties were shocking."

Little wonder that Haig has since acquired the nick name of Butcher of the Somme for his tactics.

In order to examine more closely the horror of the battle, Dr Watts will deliver Somme 1916 - Innocence Lost on February 4 at an event hosted by the Friends of the Canterbury Festival.

During the Talk Dr Watts' will address the implications of the Battle of the Somme on the conduct of the First World War and on British society as a whole, making reference to two Kentish regiments: the East Kent Regiment, known as the Buffs and the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

He said there are no completely accurate details on losses, but he said: "The 6th Battalion of the East Kent Regiment on June 30, the day before the battle commenced, had 39 officers and 1,050 men.

"By July 6, they had 11 officers and 260 men left.

"And those in the West Kent Regiment also suffered heavy losses. They fought during the whole of the First World War."

In fact, during the war, some 60,000 served with three being awarded the highest military honour for bravery – the Victoria Cross. But 6,866 lost their lives, with many thousands more wounded.

Dr Watts' research centres on the military, political and social effects of conflict and he uses primary source material from official and personal archives to examine and explain the effects on those involved.

He said: "People have this image that we had generals sitting in chateaus marching men to their deaths, but it is not quite as simple as that.

"Despite the horror of this battle, the people at home were slowly getting used to huge casualty lists which were so much larger than those in wars like the Boer.

"At the Somme the men were trained but not to a very high standard. And it is terrifying to think they were being made to walk across no man's land.

"The British artillery bombardment failed to achieve its objectives, so these walking men were simply mown down by the machine guns. Thousands and thousands were lost. The numbers are just numbing."

He said Field Marshal Douglas Haig and his colleague General Henry Seymour Rawlinson, had a fundamental disagreement over the battle "which had very unfortunate consequences".

Aware swiftly of the huge loss of life being delivered, Rawlinson refused to change his tactics.

Dr Watts said: "Lessons were learned for later on during the war, but my goodness me, what a price the men had to pay for those lessons.

"The important thing was to win the war. If attrition was the only means left to fight, then so be it. Technology in 1916 was such that this was the only option. Attrition is subject to heavy casualties.

"It is expensive in human lives - it was truly horrific. The one man left standing at the end is the victor.

"But technology and tactics change and by 1918 Britain had the world's finest army and the only one able to beat the Germans, but it came at a terrible price. In the end, the German army lost during what was called the 100 day advance.

"During this period, the losses were higher than during the Somme, but it seems to me that because a victory was being won, it was more acceptable."

As for Haig's legacy?

Dr Watts said: "People either regard him as a butcher or hero, but he was a very capable military man. He was certainly buried a hero."

Dr Watts, who served in the merchant navy in war zones, added: "Wars today will never compare to those seen in the Great War, although we are now living in the nuclear age."

■ His talk is at 4.30pm on February 4 at St Peter's Methodist Church in Canterbury, at 4.30pm. Tickets cost £12.50 each.

To purchase, contact Tina at the Canterbury Festival Office on 01227 452853 or email her at tina@canterburyfestival.co.uk.

# After the rain and the ice, potholes are next

## Every year our roads find themselves scarred by the annual problem of water creating holes which can damage our cars

**By Chris Murphy**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IF EVER there is a weather condition most likely to create pothole hell then torrential rain seeping into the surface, then a cold spell to freeze the water and crack the road surface, is just it.

Little wonder then, that motorists and the authorities are holding their breath to see just how much damage has been caused to our roads.

Not that this is new to anyone. The reality is that each and every year the weather conditions will conspire to leave our highways pockmarked and that sinking feeling when our tyres thump into them.

Nor has it been a problem ignored by local or national government. In 2014, the government, through roads agency Highways England, handed out a colossal £6billion to tackle potholes and improve roads between 2015 and 2021.

What's more, Kent has proved one of the better authorities at tackling the problems along the 5,437 miles of road it has responsibility for.

It said in order to prepare for this winter, road crews have carried out more than £2m of 'permanent patching' work during a summer long 'Find and Fix' pothole blitz, which was in addition to regular maintenance work to fix potholes.

KCC said where possible, this investment is subsequently protected by laying a surface treatment of asphalt and chippings on roads to extend their life and prevent deterioration during winter weather. In 2015, more than 125 miles of road have been either protected or entirely resurfaced.

The government, in 2014, highlighted Kent as one of the country's top-performing pothole repairers when it was made an award from the pothole fund, which gave the greatest sums to "model" authorities.

Matthew Balfour is KCC cabinet member for environment and transport. He told KoS: "We have made additional investment in addressing road repairs over the past few years with our Find and Fix programmes. Last summer's successful 'Find and Fix' campaign has enabled us to repair a substantial amount of road damage and potholes.

"We have also invested in improving the way faults are reported. By moving this online and streamlining the way the information is passed to stewards and road crews, we have dramatically improved response time. While seven or eight years ago when we had a very bad winter the average repairs times were six weeks, the average repair time for potholes that were not part of the Find and Fix programme was around 14 days – half our target time of 28 days."

To get an idea of the national scale of the problem, Highways England said between 2010 and 2015, the national road repair bill topped £4bn for motorways and trunk roads.

The agency looks after and maintains the motorways around the UK and some key trunk roads. The rest it provides funding for local authorities to manage.

In 2014, Kent was given a pothole funding allocation of close to £6.3m - and Medway a further £440,847.

A spokesman for Highways England said: "As part of our five year plan we're investing around £2bn in maintenance in the south east, which will include resurfacing 80 per cent of our roads.

"Maintenance is a routine part of what we do so we don't have dedicated teams to be able to provide numbers.

"Our teams will be out carrying out a wide range of duties including emergency surface repairs, litter picking and incident response.

"In terms of winter preparedness, we are prepared for winter with 111 gritters in the south east working from 25 depots to cover 150,000 motorway miles with 70,000 tonnes of salt."



**FAMILIAR?** Just that most potholes don't come complete with a sign giving









us a wanring as to where they are

KCC promises to repair most problems within 28 days, but admits some will "take us longer depending on how much work is needed".

But it adds that dangerous faults will be done in just two hours. Safety hazards are a week.

In 2013 to 2014, more than 2,300 motorists put in claims - the third highest county in the UK during that time and was up 92 per cent on the year before.

The holes can be incredibly dangerous. A keen competition cyclist was recently killed when she apparently hit a water-filled pothole and was tossed off her bike into the path of an oncoming car in Warwickshire.

## HIT A HOLE AND WANT TO CLAIM? HERE'S HOW...

DON'T think the county authority will just cough up some cash as soon as you get in touch.

KCC says it will investigate "all claims" but just 10 per cent are successful. The national average is 23 per cent.

It said: "Any compensation is paid out from public money, so we will always justify the claim. There is no automatic right to compensation." And it warns that if you use legal help, it is not always a given that you will get these fees refunded. If repairs exceed £500 the council may well want to inspect the damage itself.

The authority added: "Because of the legal defence available the majority of compensation claims are unsuccessful."

Despite the odds being against you, this is what you do.

Phone 03000 41 81 81 to request a claim form, fill it out and submit for processing. KCC will then investigate the claim and you may be required to attend a site meeting with an official.

The council said: "We aim to let you know the decision within 90 days of receiving your form. You will receive a letter by post explaining the decision."

If it happened on a road looked after by Highways England, phone the 24-hour hotline 0300 123 5000 or email info@highwaysengland.co.uk.

Tell them what the damage is, why you think Highways England is responsible, plus where and when it happened. Complete a damage report form and provide copies of estimates or invoices for repairs, a current MOT, and photos of the damage. It will let you know within 90 days.

## HOW ARE POTHOLES FORMED?

WHEN water enters the ground either below the asphalt used to make our roads or into the material itself, when it freezes it expands, solidifies as ice, and creates cracks.

When subjected to the regular pounding from cars and traffic, the asphalt surface starts to give way and holes are created.






# Sandys all set to lock horns with Farage

## Her decision not to contest South Thanet allowed the Ukip leader to run – but ex-MP Laura Sandys is now set for a fight



**By Luke May**
luke.may@archant.co.uk

WHEN Laura Sandys announced she was stepping down after just one term as MP for South Thanet, she can hardly have imagined that in doing so, it would provide the most fascinating of perhaps all political battlegrounds in last May's general election.

Because her absence on the ballot paper for the Conservatives meant the electorate were forced to re-examine just who they were going to vote for - and when Ukip leader Nigel Farage added his name to the list, it propelled Europe to the very top of the agenda.

But while Ukip struggles with an internal battle – should it take a step towards the centre in a bid to appeal to a wider audience and thus become a party with more chance of longevity or remain firmly on the right and banging an anti-European drum – Mrs Sandys has not stepped out of the political arena completely.

Her need to focus more time on her family has not exhausted the 51-year-old's ambitions and today she is the chairman of the pro-EU campaign group The European Movement UK – keeping up something of a family tradition.

Which means while she may have missed clashing head-on with Mr Farage in his unsuccessful bid to win her vacant seat (Tory replacement Craig Mackinlay emerged triumphant) the chances are she will in the lead up to the long-promised referendum. The latest theory on which, suggests a date later this year.

Set up in the 1940s, and with representatives in each European nation, the European Movement strives to promote further integration of states within the European Union.

Mrs Sandys' father, Duncan Sandys, was a founder of the movement in 1948, and it was a vocal campaigner for the 'yes' campaign during the European Communities' membership referendum in 1975.

During that vote, more than 17million people supported the country's role in Europe, compared with 8million 'no' votes. It seems likely this year's referendum could be a more close run thing.

Mrs Sandys explained to us this week: "I welcome the fact Nigel Farage is part of the debate, but I very much hope that after the referendum it is not his side of the campaign that wins.

"Eurosceptics often claim we have no influence in Europe, or claim that the day we leave we'll be able to make some great deals on the open market.

"People's employability rights are secured by Europe, if we were to come out companies might see American workers only having two weeks holiday a year and feel that's a change to be made in order to compete in a global market.

"I'm not saying everything will unravel but it will be a threat to people's quality of life if we were to compete in just such an open market."

She added: "We're among the top member countries in the EU.

"Staying in means we have some influence over our neighbourhood, we can help control what's going on in Romania, or in Italy.

"Before we were just a single state, but now we have some control and influence. Being there also helps secure things such as employability rights."

Mrs Sandys, whose father was son-in-law to Winston Churchill, has since left her Ramsgate home and no longer lives in the county.

But she insists staying in is vital to Kent's future.

"I'm certainly not an apologist for Europe," she says, "they do make decisions that aren't necessarily good, but this is a real wake up call.

"Leaving would have an impact on small to medium enterprises, where big companies might be able to move, smaller companies simply can't do that.

"Fishermen in Ramsgate sell 90 per cent of their fish to Boulogne fisheries, that could be impacted if we become a separate state.

"Discovery Park sells itself on being based between London and the rest of Europe, if the UK is no longer part of the EU, some businesses may not find that location as important.

"I'm not saying all these things would stop, but businesses could find them less strategically important if we were to separate."

As part of the debate, she will be ap-









**DEBATE:** Former Tory MP Laura Sandys, right, will be one of the vocal campaigners calling for Britain to remain in the European Union when a referendum takes place - thought to be later this year.

pearing at the Discovery Park for a discussion on the Europe issue over the coming weeks.

It is unlikely to be the last such discussion she finds herself involved in with the run-up to the referendum.

Laura Sandys may no longer be an MP, but her desire to campaign to win one last big vote has clearly not been diminished.

## EUROPE, IN OR OUT? YOU WILL DECIDE...

AFTER the debacle of the polling companies' predictions for the outcome of last year's general election (they universally reported we were heading towards a hung parliament), trying to second guess the outcome of the European referendum is proving tricky.

Depending on where you source your information, either there's a lead for the out campaign or the stay brigade.

But, more importantly, so much hangs on the outcome of David Cameron's current negotiations with European leaders to try and re-position the UK within the EU.

Should he succeed, then the balance of support to stay in as a renegotiated partner is likely to put the stay campaign at an advantage.

And while notoriously difficult to pre-judge the outcome of the meeting on February 18 of the European Council when the PM will discover if he has proved successful, this week there were some promising signs.

Dutch prime minister Mark Rutte, whose country currently holds the rotating presidency of the 28-nation bloc, said he is "fairly optimistic" a deal with Britain will emerge in February, but that he is "not absolutely sure".

Addressing a panel at the World Economic Forum at the Swiss ski resort of Davos, Mr Rutte voiced his strong support for Britain's continued membership of the EU as the country is outward-looking and trade-oriented.



**TALKS:** Will David Cameron's talks to alter terms of Britain's EU membership sway the result?

Mr Cameron is seeking a series of reforms on things such as benefits, powers for national parliaments and movement of people.

The prime minister has voiced his hope that a successful renegotiation will lead to the British people backing Britain's future in the EU in the referendum.

French prime minister Manuel Valls said it would be a "tragedy" if Britain left the EU - the so-called Brexit.

There has also been an interesting twist in the 'out' campaign. This time last year, it seemed inevitable that Ukip leader Nigel Farage would be the very public face of calling to leave the EU.

Yet his ability to divide opinion has seen him so far take something of a back seat, while members of the Tory cabinet jockey into position as to who can conjure up the most compelling argument why Britain would be better off out of it.

All those who voted Ukip last May – given the party's profound anti-European stance – can be expected to back a Brexit... but with supporters of the union across all the other pain political parties, it will become a fascinating contest.

Yet the main problem cited by many is a lack of clear, unbiased, information on the benefits and negatives of our membership. What's more, Europe is a complex issue; ranging from the perceived bureaucratic issues of the EU's inner workings to law-making, border control, economic power in a union, and restrictions on working practices. Everywhere you look there are both positives and negatives.

And expect, after February, for the propaganda war to really take off.

The referendum seems likely to be held in either June or July of this year.




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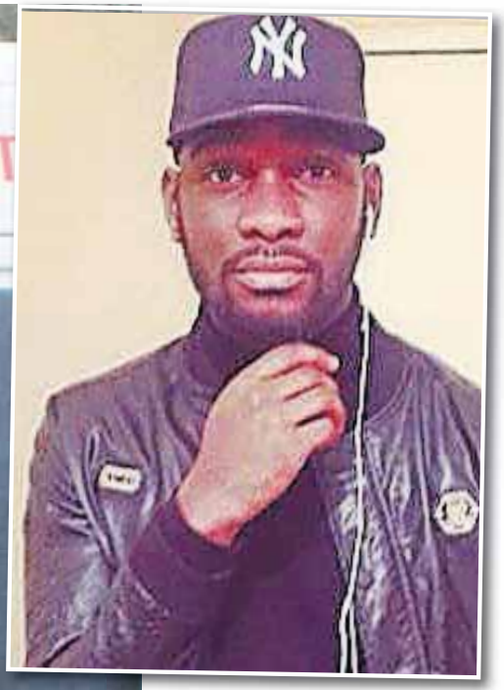
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**AWARENESS:** Local star Dame Kelly Holmes with Roger Maddam, father of Jack, and CRY ambassador Andy Scott, left. Junior Dian above.

# Club tackles heart defect threat

After losing two of their young players to undiagnosed heart conditions, non-league side Tonbridge Angels are being pro-active in ensuring there are no further tragedies. **Tom Pyman** finds out more

AFTER witnessing the death of two of their players in just seven years, Tonbridge Angels Football Club launched a heart screening service earlier this month to help combat cardiac issues among young people.

A stand at the club's ground is named in honour of former player, Jack Maddams, who died back in 2008, before 24-year-old triallist Junior Dian collapsed and died on the pitch during a pre-season friendly last summer.

Every week in the UK, 12 apparently fit and healthy young people, aged 35 and under, die from undiagnosed cardiac conditions.

A frightening 80 per cent of these deaths occur with no prior symptoms, although when they do present themselves, they tend to include chest pains, passing out, palpitations, breathlessness and dizziness, and the only way to identify people who are asymptomatic and at risk is through cardiac testing using an ECG (an electrocardiogram which checks electrical activity in your heart).

Angels chairman, Steve Churcher, said: "We were trying to turn Junior's death into something positive as part of the grieving process which is still going on.

"This has happened to us twice in seven years and we don't want to see it again so that's why we launched the service and why we're continuing to raise money.

"But this is no longer about Tonbridge Angels, it's about getting the word out there and getting as many people screened as possible.

"It'd be great to really get the ball rolling in Kent and then pass the baton on and see it become a nationwide trend.

"Jack went to bed a happy, sprightly 17-year-old and didn't wake up, then you watch it unfold before your eyes and it's extremely traumatic and hammers home the message an awful lot harder.

"It's something that should be made available, particularly if it has the ability to save somebody's life – at the weekend I know at least three people that were referred to a consultant.

"That's not to say they have life-threatening defects, but it's important that any potential problems have been highlighted."

Although screening will not identify all young people at risk, in Italy, where screening is mandatory for all young people engaged in organised sport, they have reduced the incidence of young sudden cardiac death by 89 per cent.

The Angels' screening service was held in partnership with the Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) charity, and CEO Dr Steve Cox, who was also present at the event, wants to see mandatory screening in force across the UK as well.

He told KoS: "It was excellent to see such a great turnout, including an appearance from Dame Kelly Holmes who had an ECG on the day.

"Screening is mandatory in elite sport and for some careers, because you don't want someone flying on a plane of hundreds of people to be passing out.

"The vast majority of incidents aren't in elite sport either, so we want to see it all the way down to grassroots level.

"Ideally, everyone would be screened prior to participation in sport because research has shown that it is three times more likely to trigger a cardiac problem."

One-in-every-300 of the young people that CRY tests will be identified with a potentially life threatening condition, while one-in-every-100 will have a condition that is less serious but could cause problems in later life.

Bexley mother Juliet Lamin, whose son Philip collapsed and died on a football pitch after suffering a cardiac arrest back in 2013, regularly hosts charity events to raise money and awareness, and has campaigned for defibrillators to be installed in schools across the country.

She said: "We always see fire extinguishers, but not a defibrillator and I think every school should have one.

"I want to tell every parent to take their young children for heart screening, like the one in Tonbridge the other day.

"If a young person has a heart defect, this will show up at the screening and something can be done before it's too late."

The Angels set a target of raising £28,000 and are just £4,000 shy of that total, much to the delight of Mr Churcher.

"As chairman it makes me proud of what we have achieved," he said.

"We're not a big club but they way everyone has come together and raised £24,000 in just six months is tremendous."

Similar screening sessions are set to take place in the coming months in Gillingham and Sevenoaks.

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# Loving care 2016

## Your guide to care homes, sheltered housing, in-home care, loneliness and dementia



WITH an increasing ageing population, the issue of care for those in old age has become one which is increasingly impacting on our lives.

Whether we are examining our own future and health care needs, or for those loved ones who need additional support, just what options are available and the costs involved can seem both confusing and hard to come by.

The following few pages do not promise to answer every question on every subject, but it should provide a starting point for a discussion you might need to have today - or tomorrow.

Over the following pages we provide you with an idea of the accommodation and care choices available as well as how much everything will cost.

It can be a worrying time for both those seeking care and those organising it for others. The good news is that there are plenty of excellent care providers and lots of organisations which can provide advice.

Hopefully this guide will help point you in the right direction...

## Your guide starts here...

***Q If I'm concerned about the safety or health of a relative who insists on living at home, what are the options available?***

A There are two main options available for you.

The first is for a family member or friend to take on the responsibility of in-home carer. The benefits are a familiar face they'll feel comfortable with and no additional financial cost.

But the negatives can be that such a responsibility should not be taken lightly. The commitment could be for years and the chances are their condition is only going to deteriorate.

The other option is to buy-in some outside assistance.

There are a variety of different services this can cover from domestic chores, to assistance with washing or dressing, to providing health and nursing care – or simply some companionship. Remember being lonely can often undermine their physical and mental wellbeing.

***Q How much does it cost for a carer to make home visits?***

A Costs will vary, but on average, carers cost around £15 an hour. That may not sound a lot, but if you need someone for two hours a day, over the course of a year that will start nudging up towards £11,000.

***Continued on page 29***






Belmont Sandbanks CARE GROUP





**Belmont Sandbanks Care Group** offers care for people in delightful settings in coastal Kent and East Sussex. We provide specialist care for people in these areas via our services which include Residential Care, Day Care Services, Respite Services and Home Care Services.

Belmont Sandbanks Care Group consists of Madeira Lodge, Sandbanks and Edendale, which offer specialist dementia care for the elderly. Madeira Day Services is a day centre within the grounds of Madeira Lodge, offering care and support to older people with dementia and other mental health problems who may live alone or be cared for by others. There is a registered mental nurse and dementia clinic available through our day services to offer clinical support and supervision for staff, service users and families at all of our sites.

In addition to the residential and day care services, Belmont Sandbanks also offers assisted Home Care Services. Our skilled care assistants and domestic assistants can come to your home to help with your in-house care.

We offer personal and domestic care in the home and a wide range of services, please feel free to discuss these options with us.

Combined, our services provide a spectrum of care for the elderly with dementia. We also offer a diverse range of complimentary services for families. Unlike many residential care businesses we do things very differently by offering a wide range of care services to support the local community, these include:

- Residential Care
- Respite Care
- Rehabilitation Care & Emergency Support
- Dementia friendly communities
- Dementia Clinics
- Home Care & Domestic Care Services
- Day Care Services

As an organisation we took the decision to offer a more rounded care support system to help all those caring for people with Dementia. With Belmont Sandbanks you need not only come to us for residential support but for full support, whether it be living with us or at your own home. *Thank you.*

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

**T**: 01797 366810 **E**: info@belmontsandbanks.co.uk **W**: www.belmontsandbanks.co.uk

















# Holywell Park
## Nursing & Residential Care

# Providing a Caring Home for your Loved Ones



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*Family-run home in a lovely setting, providing a caring home environment for elderly men and women. Accommodation on three floors, lifts and nurse call system. Lovely dining room and three lounges with views of the grounds.*

### *About Us*

Holywell Park is a large country house built approximately 300 years ago and is set in its own grounds situated in the Hamlet of Hodsoll Street. Family run since 1986, our aim is to provide a friendly, caring environment for the elderly. The beautiful house is surrounded by lovely gardens. There is even a quaint country put outside our gates!

### *Nursing Care*

We provide comprehensive individualised nursing care delivered by our experienced team of fully trained Nurses and Care Assistants. We cater for those requiring general nursing care and also for those who require some specialist nursing care.

Each resident will receive an assessment prior to admission to ensure that we are able to meet their needs. This assessment will be carried out by one of our Managers and will be used to form the basis of the residents care plan. This personalised care planwill detail each and every assessed need and contain a plan of action for those needs to ensure that the resident receives the highest quality of care.

### *Residential Care*

We provide residential care in luxury and homely surroundings. We will not only look after all the personal needs of our residential care residents but also promote their social being and independence.

As with our nursing clients, we will also carry out a full assessment prior to admission and create an individualised care plan to ensure that all assessed needs are met including religious, social and cultural needs.

### *Respite Care*

We understand the considerable pressures of looking after a very dependent elderly person and are aware that at times you may appreciate a break. Should you need to arrange care for a short period to as long as you wish then please contact contact us and we will carry out a full assessment of needs.

If you have arranged a holiday then your loved one can also enjoy a holiday at Holywell Park where they will meet new friends and participate in all the daily activities of a vibrant community.

**Hodsoll Street, Ash-cum-Ridley, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 7LE**
**Telephone: 01732 822 215 • Fax: 01732 823 661**
**www.holywellpark.com • Email: holywellpark@aol.com**

*Continued from page 27*

**Q *Who do I contact to enquire about such services?***

A If you become a carer to a loved one, then there are plenty of support services available to you – Kent County Council and Medway Council will be able to point you in the direction of services available.

Alternatively, there are a number of companies which offer services which you can buy in.

**Q *How do I know the carers I hire are trustworthy and will provide good care?***

A Do your research. All companies will have websites outlining the services they provide and providing details of the costs.

In addition, they are subject to regular visits by the Care Quality Commission – the independent regulator of health and social care providers. You can access their reports online too.

Better still, speak to people who have used such services and get recommendations.

**Q *My loved one is no longer suitable to be living in their home, but they don't want to go into a care home – what options are there?***

A The obvious one is to open your home to them and let them stay with you. Many people see this as the perfect way to spread the care for an elderly or ill relative while keeping costs down.



However, there is also the option of moving them into supported housing. Provided by the local authority and a range of companies, they are typically small developments managed by dedicated care staff. There is private accommodation and the opportunity to use communal areas too. It can allow for freedom to continue but also for help to be on hand 24 hours a day.

The range can be vast – from those dedicated purely to the over 60s or to a broader cross-section of those in need. It will depend on how much you can pay.

The local authority and housing associations do provide some facilities so it's worth checking with them.

**Q *If they accept a care home may provide the best facilities for them, what are my options?***

A There are a wide range of facilities available and each personal circumstance and need will determine just what is needed.

Again, check online at the options and refer to the Care Quality Commission to see the reports of the standards of care offered at the various homes near you. A key consideration should be how easy it is for family and friends to access the site for visits – so if you need to be close to public transport, bear that in mind.

Visit those on your shortlist and ensure you take along the loved one you are considering moving into

***Continued on page 31***

## DEMENTIA EXPLAINED

**Q *What is dementia?***

A After years of being an almost taboo topic, the spotlight recently has shone brightly on dementia and the challenges it brings with it.

The word dementia is actually something of a catch-all for a variety of symptoms – caused when the brain is affected by a disease.

Common diseases include Alzheimer's which sees proteins build up in the brain which lead to the loss of connection and ultimately death of nerve cells and brain tissues.

The outcome is dementia – which includes the likes of memory loss, difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or changes in mood or behaviour.

It is a degenerative condition – which means the patient will get worse over time.

Strokes can also trigger the condition, and it is thought there are around 100 causes in total. It is not, however, a natural part of the ageing process.



Nor is it rare. It is thought there are around 850,000 people in the UK with dementia – with those over the age of 65 most vulnerable. It is thought one in six people over 80 have the condition.







# Avante: Delivering care excellence

JUST what does excellence look like?

It's evident that looking for 'good' care is not as straightforward as some people may think and it's not until you are put in this situation due to a loved one or friend requiring care that you realise the difficulties upon you.

To start, you are normally advised by the local authority to take a look through a care directory to familiarise yourself with care homes in your area, your next route to follow is researching and visiting these homes to see what care is provided, after all you can't tell anything from what the building looks like from the outside or the location it is situated, it's what goes on inside the home that matters.

Albeit a beautiful building, at Amherst Court care home in Chatham it's outstanding care that takes place inside the home, run by Avante Care & Support, as it has recently been recognised by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as a care home that delivers 'outstanding' care. This recent achievement also means that Amherst Court is the first and only care home in Medway to receive an 'outstanding' CQC report.

So what does this mean?





Amherst Court offers care for older people living with dementia. CQC inspectors gave an 'outstanding' rating after examining the home's responsiveness and leadership and a 'good' for safety, caring and effectiveness, setting an overall rating of 'outstanding' for the home.

Since the CQC began rating adult social care services under their more rigorous style of inspection in October 2014, only 18 care homes providing dementia care in the whole of the UK have received their top rating of 'outstanding', with only two care homes in Kent achieving this.

Amherst Court has now proudly become the first care home in Medway to achieve an 'outstanding' rating from its recent inspection.

The care home prioritises dignity, responsiveness and respect for its residents, their carers and families, which we at Avante Care & Support know all families are looking for when looking for care for their loved ones.

The CQC's rigorous new inspection regime is a testament to Amherst Courts dedication in delivering an excellent quality service to local families in Medway and Kent.

If you are looking for care for a loved one or you know someone who is, Amherst Court is a great care home to start your search.

For more information on Amherst Court or to arrange a viewing please call the Home Manager on 01634 400 009 or visit www.avantecare.org.uk

**• This article is paid-for advertorial provided by Avante Care & Support.**


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*"Mum has first class care and is very happy, I cannot recommend Amherst Court enough"*







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Latest CQC Rating Outstanding

Care Quality Commission

We are an approved provider for Kent County Council.

Kent County Council

*Continued from page 29*

there. It is a big step and it is one you want to feel comfortable with.

**Q** ***So just how much is it going to cost?***

**A** Most people will pay for their care themselves. Currently, if you have assets of more than £23,250 (and remember this includes any property you own unless a partner or close relative still lives there) then you'll be expected to pay the full cost of your care. Below that, and the local authority will use national guidelines to means test just how much you will need to pay or that you will receive towards your care.

According to a report covering 2014/15, the average cost of care home accommodation in the south east was £669 a week – rising to £920 with nursing care.

That equates to £34,788 or £47,850 a year. And remember, depending on their health, they may be there for many years.

The costs will vary depending on your location and level of care but many are surprised at just how much it will be.

**Q** ***How are care homes regulated?***

**A** There are national standards of quality and safety which all cares homes in England are expected to meet.

All those reaching those standards are registered with the Care Quality Commission which inspects care homes regularly – almost always unannounced - and can carry out additional checks if there are concerns.

Failure to hit the required standards can, ultimately, force the homes to be closed.

The national standards include levels of respect to those staying there which includes always being involved in discussions over treatment received. The homes should always be safe havens, and the staff properly trained and able to deliver high levels of care.

## LONELINESS

For all the good health you can enjoy in a long life, one of the least discussed silent killers is loneliness.

Whether caused by the loss of a spouse or simply ill health restricting movement, many can quickly feel isolated and cut off from their communities. This is amplified if family do not live nearby.

According to a recent survey by Age UK, more than two million people over the age of 75 live alone and more than a million older people go over a month without speaking to a neighbour, friend or family member.

Failure to remain mentally active can lead many into a downward spiral of physical and mental ill health.

The good news, is that there are plenty of services available to help ease the issues – from charities which can arrange friendly visits just to provide a little company, or carers who can come in and offer a hand around the house and the chance for a chat.

In addition, there are phone lines in operation such as The Silver Line – set up by broadcaster Esther Rantzen – which older people can ring for advice and a chat.

The NHS is also encouraging friends and family to introduce those living alone to the power and potential of modern technology.

Perhaps a tablet for emails or video calls – the perfect method to stay in touch with loved ones who live far away.

Libraries and community centres often hold regular training courses for older people to learn basic computer skills – as well as being a good place to meet and spend time with others in their own right.

If in doubt, contact your local branch of Age UK which can provide help and advice.



## MORE INFORMATION

***General health and advice***:
NHS Choices
www.nhs.uk

***Local authorities:***
www.kent.gov.uk
www.medway.gov.uk

***General advice and support***
Age UK - formed following merger of Age Concern and Help the Aged:
AgeUK.org.uk

***Alzheimer's Society:***
www.alzheimers.org.uk

***Helpline:***
For the elderly suffering loneliness:
www.thesilverline.org.uk or 0800 4 70 80 90


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Nick is an independent care and Financial Advisor who specialises in assisting families and residents in all matters relating to living in our communities. If you would like to talk to him about what support is available then why not come to our Financial Awareness Open Day. Refreshments are available.

***Art Exhibition and Cheese and Wine***
*Wednesday 10th February, 7pm – 9pm*

Join the residents and staff of the Miramar for an Art Exhibition Evening. Local artists and the residents will all have art displays and enjoy our Cheese & Wine selection!

***Vintage Tea Party***
*Wednesday 13 April, 3pm – 5pm*

Join the residents of the Miramar at a Vintage Tea Party being hosted by The Vintage Empire Tearoom in Herne Bay with a talk by East Kent WI.



**Please call Debbie for more information and to book your place for our events. Tours available of our home.**

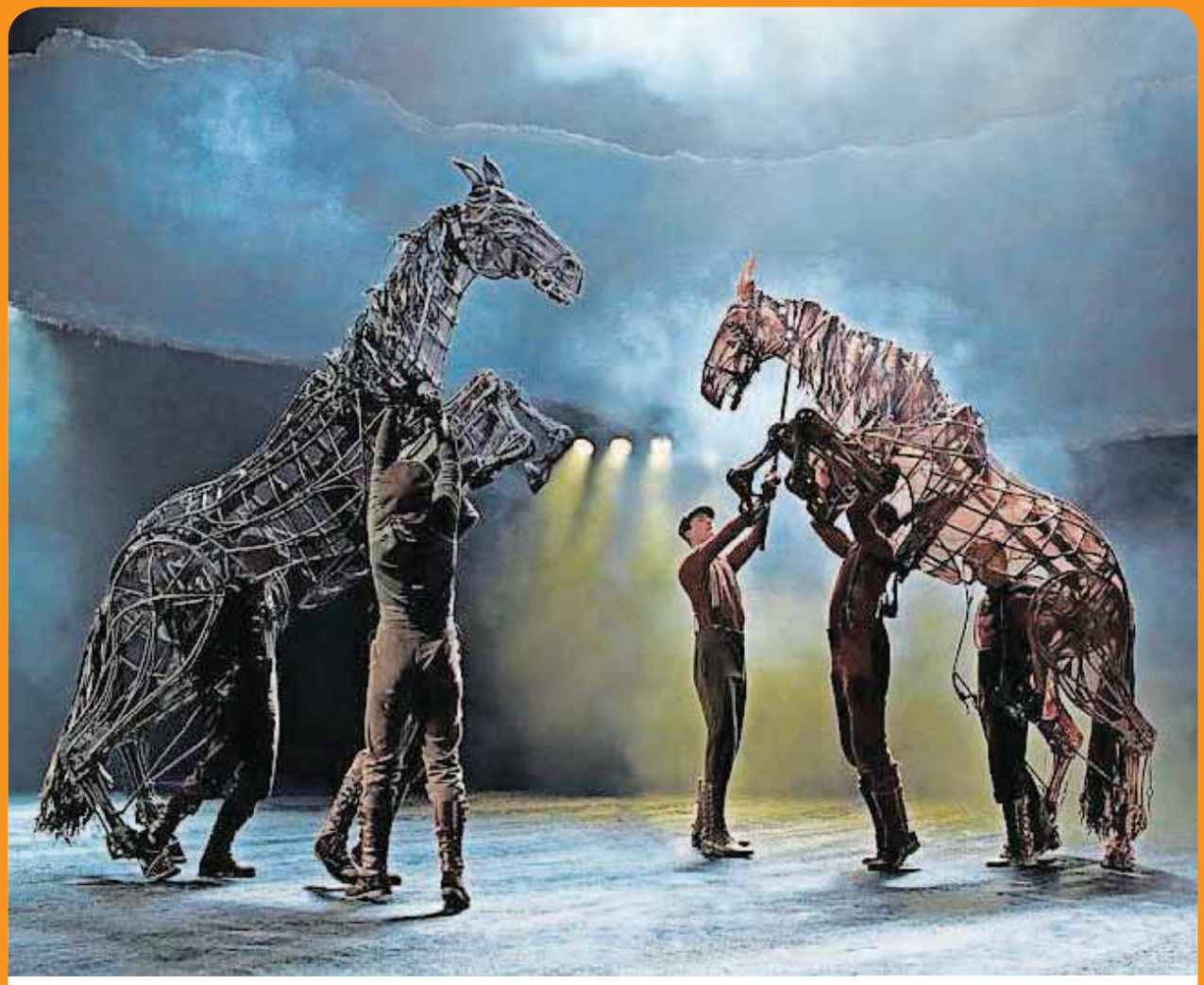
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**FAVOURITE:** Michael Morpurgo's book tells the story of a young boy called Albert and his horse Joey

# War Horse champing at the bit to start tour in Kent

## Marlowe 'honoured' to be selected as launch venue for 2017 UK production...

A CANTERBURY theatre has been selected as the launch venue for a new UK tour of hit production War Horse.

The National Theatre's acclaimed production will open at the Marlowe Theatre on September 15 next year.

It then will run at the venue until October 14, 2017, with general tickets going on sale next month.

The theatre has previously hosted National Theatre productions People, One Man, Two Guvnors, and The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time.

Theatre director Mark Everett said: "This is a huge honour for us all at The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury and Kent.

"Because the tour starts at The Marlowe, it will also be rehearsed here, which adds a whole new dimension as most shows we present are made elsewhere.

"Attracting National Theatre productions was one of our key ambitions when the new Marlowe Theatre was being planned.

"I am absolutely delighted that we have managed to secure War Horse for our audiences.

"This stunning and groundbreaking production really is the icing on the cake."

War Horse has been seen by more than seven million people around the world, and it will be completing its eight-year run at London's New London Theatre in March.

The production has won 25 awards, including the Tony Award for best play on Broadway.

Nick Stafford's adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's book tells the story of a young boy called Albert and his horse Joey.

The story is set against the backdrop of the First World War.

It features puppetry work by South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company, which brings breathing, galloping horses to life on the stage.

War Horse premiered at the National Theatre in 2007, where it played for two seasons before opening at the New London Theatre in 2009.

Since then, the production has been seen in 97 cities in 10 different countries, including shows on Broadway, in Toronto and Berlin.

Writer Michael Morpurgo said: "After a few months rest, out at pasture, Joey, the War Horse and his great team from the National Theatre, will be touring the UK again, from 2017 through to 2018 and the centenary of the end of the First World War, taking their show all over the country, to towns and cities, many of them places War Horse has not been seen before.

"I am so pleased this is happening; that so many more people will have the chance to enjoy this unique theatrical event. Steady boy, steady Joey. Trot on."

War Horse is directed by Marianne Elliott and Tom Morris, designed by Rae Smith, with puppet direction, design and fabrication by Basil Jones and Adrian Kohler for Handspring Puppet Company.

For more details visit www.marlowetheatre.com.

**» Email us details of your event to:**
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**25 April, 2016 • Quote: BD4**

**Join us on this exclusive river cruise on board the MV Prinses Christina. A visit to Holland in springtime is a feast for the senses as the gardens and fields are full to bursting with flowers. The highlight is an included visit to Keukenhof Gardens with its magnificent floral displays. There is time to explore the canals, museums and flower markets of Amsterdam, plus Enkhuisen and Hoorn.**

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## Amsterdam to Bruges - 5 Cities & 2 Kingdoms - River Cruise

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**19 September, 2016 • Quote: AB9**

**This exciting new river cruise takes in five cities and two kingdoms. Join us on board our private charter of MPS Princess with great food and service and a fun and friendly atmosphere. We start in Amsterdam and have a full day and two evenings to explore before sailing to Kinderdijk, which has 19 windmills and a landscape straight from a Rembrandt masterpiece before heading for a harbour cruise in Rotterdam. Sailing into Belgium, we visit the city of Antwerp - the diamond capital - and the stunning architecture of Ghent before arriving in Bruges with a full day and two evenings in this beautiful town before returning to the UK.**

**INCLUDED:** Escorted return rail travel from London St Pancras or Ebbsfleet to Brussels and coach to Amsterdam or return flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports to Amsterdam - supp't may apply • 7 nights semi-all-inclusive cruise on the MPS Princess sharing a twin river-view rear cabin on Main Deck - upgrades available • Beer, wine, & soft drinks served at lunch and dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Morning and afternoon coffee/tea and pastries • Buffet breakfasts and lunches • Dinner served at your table - 4 courses • Late night snacks • Captain's dinner - 5 courses • Entertainment • Transfers abroad • GN Cruise Team on board




## 4-star Brahms Rhine in Flames & Moselle River Cruise

Escorted Holiday by Rail or Air

**31 August, 2016 - Quote RN8**

**This fabulous cruise takes in the Rhine and Moselle Rivers, Bingen's wine festival and fireworks display, captivating scenery, picturesque towns and more. If all of this is not enough, add the 4-star MPS Johannes Brahms, providing just 80 guests with a friendly crew, great food, superb service, entertainment and spacious en-suite cabins - all with picture windows. With visits to Cologne, Andernach, Rudesheim, Bingen, Cochem and Boppard, this is a magical voyage that will stay in your memory for years to come.**

**INCLUDED:** Escorted return rail travel from London St Pancras or Ebbsfleet to Brussels and coach to Cologne or return flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports to Cologne - supp't may apply • 7-night full board cruise sharing a twin bed, main deck rear cabin - upgrades available • Beer, wine by the glass, and soft drinks served at lunch and dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Entertainment • Transfers abroad • GN Cruise Team on board




## 4-star Rembrandt Rhine in Flames & Moselle River Cruise

Escorted Holiday by Rail or Air

**22 September, 2016 • Quote RR9**

**Join us for a scenic, fun-packed cruise onboard the 4-star mps Rembrandt Van Rijn taking in Cologne, Koblenz, Cochem, Zell, Rudesheim and Boppard, where you'll see the Rhine in Flames festival. Originally held to celebrate the grape harvest, this spectacular pyrotechnics show also features an illuminated flotilla of riverboats. Also enjoy the Boppard Wine Festival featuring wines from local vineyards, live music and entertainment.**

**INCLUDED:** Escorted return rail travel from London St Pancras or Ebbsfleet to Brussels and coach to Cologne or return flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports to Cologne - supp't may apply • 7 nights full board cruise sharing a twin outside main deck rear cabin – upgrades available • Beer, wine and soft drinks with lunch and dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Captains Dinner • Entertainment • Transfers abroad • GN Cruise Team on board

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**By Molly Kersey-Law**

molly.kersey-law@archant.co.uk

INDIE rock band Kaiser Chiefs will be performing at Bedgebury Pinetum, near Tunbridge Wells, in June.

The band will be playing there as part of Forest Live – a programme organised by the Forestry Commission which sees acts perform in woodland settings.

Formed in 2000, Kaiser Chiefs shot to fame after releasing albums such as Employment, Yours Truly, Angry Mob and Off With Their Heads.

They are currently working on their sixth studio album.

Their hits include Oh My God, I Predict A Riot, Everyday I Love You Less And Less, Ruby and Never Miss A Beat.

The band is fronted by Ricky Wilson – who is currently appearing as a coach on BBC series The Voice.

Speaking about the gigs, Mr Wilson said: "As a band we've always loved to play outdoors, we've done fields, parks, farms, rooftops, beaches and back gardens, but this will be the first time we've played in a forest.



**FIRST TIME FORESTERS:** Kaiser Chiefs will be at Bedgebury Pinetum this summer

"If you go down to the woods this summer, you're sure of a big surprise. We're really looking forward to being part of Forest Live."

Income generated from ticket sales is spent on protecting, improving and expanding the country's forests and woodlands.

Kaiser Chiefs will be performing at Bedgebury Pinetum on Saturday, June 18.

Tickets to the performance are £38.50 plus a £4.35 booking fee.

They will be available to buy from the Forestry Commission box office at 9am on Friday (January 22).

To book call the box office on 03000 680400 or visit www.forestry.gov.uk/music.

## Wendy James set for show



FORMER Transvision Vamp front woman Wendy James will perform at Ramsgate's Music Hall on February 17.

Her new album The Price of the Ticket. is released two days later. Call 01843 591815.

## Stephen K Amos on stage

COMEDIAN Stephen K Amos will be performing in Canterbury next week.

Mr Amos is on tour with his new show The Laughter Master.

Mr Amos will be performing at the Gulbenkian on January 31. The show starts at 7.30pm.

For details, visit www.thegulbenkian.co.uk

## Get into Get Intuit



INDIE guitar pop band Get Inuit will be playing a gig at Canterbury's Gulbenkian on Sunday (January 24) at 8pm.

Tickets £7 (students £5). Call 01227 769075.

## Paddy Milner and band

ACCLAIMED blues and jazz keyboard player Paddy Milner and his group Londonola are coming to Kent.

The New Orleans soul and funk band are playing at The Music Room, Maidstone Pizza Express, in Earl Street, on Friday, January 29 at 8.30pm. Visit www.tinyurl.com/pe-maidstone


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## Carnevil comes to town...



THE Circus of Horrors will be bringing their new show – Welcome To The Carnevil – to Margate Winter Gardens on February 27 at 7.30pm.

To book, visit www.margatewintergardens.co.uk.

## Rockers Wolf Alice to play

ALTERNATIVE rock band Wolf Alice will be performing at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on March 21.

The show will start at 7pm and tickets are £21.15.

For more details, or to book tickets, visit www.atgtickets.com/bromley.

## Jackson Live at Woodville



A MUSICAL stage show will be bringing the hits of Michael Jackson to Gravesend next month. Jackson Live in Concert will be performed at the Woodville on February 12.

Call 08442 439 480.

## Jimmy Carr's new show

COMEDIAN Jimmy Carr will bring his new show, Work in Progress, to Gravesend.

The host of Channel 4's 8 Out Of 10 Cats will be performing at the Woodville on April 6.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £21.

For more information or to book tickets, visit www.woodville.co.uk.

# Thin Lizzy join Whitesnake at Ramblin' Man Fair 2016

**By Tim Miles**

tim.miles@archant.co.uk



KENT'S biggest music event, the Maidstone-based Ramblin' Man Fair has just added rockers Thin Lizzy to its line-up for the summer.

Joining among others Whitesnake, Black Stone Cherry, Airbourne, Europe, Uriah Heep and Hawkwind, the highly-influential rockers will play an exclusive show at Mote Park to mark the 40th anniversary of their album Jailbreak and 30 years since the passing of Phil Lynott in what will be their only UK gig this year.

Now in its second year, the Ramblin' Man Fair takes place in the heart of the county town over the weekend of July 23 and 24.

Thin Lizzy are one of rock music's most recognisable names. The fiery Dublin band exploded onto the scene with a fresh sound, look and attitude. Lead by the incomparable Phil Lynott, the band reached many peaks and influenced generations of musicians with classic tracks such as Jailbreak, The Boys Are Back In Town, Still In Love With You, Cold Sweat, Emerald and Don't Believe A Word between 1969 and 1983.

The Thin Lizzy lineup is vocalist Ricky Warwick, guitarists Scott Gorham and Damon Johnson, and Darren Wharton on Keyboards. As special guest, they have seasoned drummer Mikkey Dee from Motörhead.

Mikkey Dee added: "It's an honor to be asked to play with Thin Lizzy on these dates, being a life long fan I am so happy and excited to playing with band on these shows. It's going to be great!"

Ramblin' Man Fair is now under the ownership of new music event company Spirit of Rock, who said: "Now under new management, year two of Ramblin' Man Fair will be even bigger and better than year one.

"The festival will concentrate on a core offering of classic rock, prog and Southern rock music showcasing both legends and new talent."

To find out more, or to book tickets, visit, www.ramblinmanfair.com







**OPTIONS:** Ramblin' Man Fair offers plenty to see and do...

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# Sweeten the sugar-free deal with new recipe book

## Cookery writer Susanna Booth uses her chemistry degree to create goodies that don't sacrifice taste

THERE is no sugar-coating the fact that sugar consumption is having a massive impact on our waistlines, teeth, moods and overall health and wellbeing.

From reports that slashing the amount of sugar in sweetened drinks by 40% could prevent 300,000 cases of Type 2 diabetes, to news that the average five-year-old consumes the equivalent of their own body weight in sugar in a year, reducing the white stuff has become something of a national priority.

Yet while many are painfully aware of the destructive influence of sugar (that'll be the 3pm grumps, ageing skin and bingo wings then), it doesn't help that: A, sugar is added to lots of food and drinks, even unsuspecting savoury products; B, sugar is embedded in our daily diets (hello, mid-morning biscuits with a cuppa), and C, it tastes nice.

Here to help is cookery writer Susanna Booth, who used her polymer chemistry degree to create sugar-free goodies that don't sacrifice taste, sweetly displayed in her new recipe book, Sensationally Sugar Free.

But with sugar playing "quite a big role in a lot of baking", the challenge was to find a way of adding texture and crunch - which sugar provides - as well as sweetness.

So far, Booth's recipes (in which she uses apple puree, sweeteners like stevia and naturally sweet fruits) have been well received by friends and family.



**SWEET:** Writer Susanna Booth

The key, she says, is to accept that sugar-free deserts will taste different to sugar-laden versions of the same dish. "If you put my carrot cake next to another carrot cake that was made with sugar, you would notice how much less sweet it is," says Booth. "But actually, most of the time, you don't really want loads of sweetness. In a way, I think you just become accustomed to it."

Although many of us are habituated to eating sweetened food, there are some things to keep in mind if you want to reduce the amount of sugar you use in baking.

"Think about that sugar hit," explains Booth, who often uses fruit as a topping for cakes.

"If you make a Madeira cake and cut out pretty much all the sugars and use apple puree or whatever instead, it would be disgusting. It would just be like having a loaf of bread.

"It just will not be what you're looking for mentally. You have to think about the proportion of things. If you have a sweet topping like whipped cream, you get that nice mouthful and feel like you've got something luxurious.

"You can sweeten the cake mixture very little and still feel like you've got that thing."

Although not completely sugar-free, Booth "cooks from scratch", so she can keep track of how much sugar she and her family eat.

"I think it's better to try and reduce as much as you can," she says.

## Splurge on Bugsy Malone

MUSICAL Bugsy Malone will be performed at the Central Theatre, Chatham.

Set in New York in 1929, it tells the story of a war between rival gangsters Fat Sam and Dandy Dan.

And Dan is in possession of a new and deadly weapon: the dreaded 'splurge gun'.

It will run from April 14 to 16. Visit www.tickets.medway.gov.uk to book.

## Simon and Garfunkel

THE Simon and Garfunkel Story will be performed in Folkestone next month.

The show uses projection photos and original film footage and includes hits such as Mrs Robinson, Bridge Over Troubled Water and Cecilia.

It will be performed at the Leas Cliff Hall on February 19 at 7.30pm.

For more details or to book tickets, visit www.atgtickets.com/folkestone.

## Bodyguard on stage

AWARD-WINNING musical The Bodyguard will be performed in Canterbury next month.

The show features a number of Whitney Houston's hits such as I Will Always Love You.

It will be at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury from February 17 to 27.

For more information about the play, or find out about seat prices or to order tickets, call 01227 787787.

## Hairspray the Musical

HAIRSPRAY The Musical will be performed at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, in May.

Set in Baltimore, the show tells the story of Tracy Turnblad, who is determined to follow her dreams and dance on national TV.

It will run from May 3 to 7, with performances at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

For further details, you can visit www.atgtickets.com/bromley.





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# Love your pet

## A celebration of our special friends...

# Tell us all about your favourite animal friends

WElcome!

Hello and welcome to the latest instalment of Love Your Pet.

Our pets are some of our dearest friends and in this special supplement we will be celebrating all the things that make them great, and the bond that we have with them.

We start off with a look at pictures of pets that have been sent in to us - along with stories about their personalities and what they like to do.

We then take a look at some of the quirky gadgets that you can buy for your furry friends - including a tennis ball launcher for dogs, a 'kitty laptop' for your favourite feline and a self-heating pet bed so your animals can get cosy during the colder months.

On page 41 we look at the work of retailer Pets Corner and charity Give a Dog a Coat - who teamed up to provide homeless dogs with coats to keep them warm this winter.

Find out about the inspiration behind starting the charity and how you can get involved if you have a dog coat that you would like to donate.

This supplement will be running in the paper each month and we want to hear the stories that you have about your pets.

We want to hear about the things that make them special, or any quirky stories that you might have, as well as seeing the photos that you have taken of them.

***If you would like to see your pets featured on these pages then email us at editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.***







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LOOKING for a new pet?

Pets can help to make a house a home, becoming a treasured part of family life.

Are you looking for a new pet to take home this year?

There are many animals who are currently looking for a happy forever home.

Battersea Brands Hatch, situated near Longfield, cares for a number of cats and dogs who are waiting to be rehomed.

One of these is a Chihuahua cross Jack Russell called Honey – who has lived at the centre for the past 300 days.

This is almost 10 times longer than the average stay for any other dog at Battersea Brands Hatch - making Honey the longest resident there.

Honey is six-years-old, and has an anxious side – meaning she is in need of an owner who is both experienced and understanding.

If you think you would like to rehome Honey, you can call 0843 509 4444.

***For more information about Honey or to see the other animals who are waiting to be rehomed at Battersea Brands Hatch, you can visit www.battersea.org.uk.***



# This month's selection of your best pet pictures

MANY pet owners love taking photographs of their pets, and we will be featuring a selection of pictures in this monthly supplement.

Whether you have a cat or dog that you feel proud of, or a pet reptile you would like to showcase, get in touch with us.

Here and some of the photographs that have been sent in to us...



**These four kittens lived in Canterbury with volunteer Chris Mallinson, until they found forever homes.**

Mr Mallinson said: "I have been a volunteer for Canterbury Cats' Protection for some time, and one of the huge benefits is that I have been able to foster cats and kittens in my own home while they await their forever home. I love photographing my precious visitors and have now accumulated a considerable collection of cute, funny and adorable pictures.

"A while ago I was lucky enough to be asked if I could take in four little kittens until a home was found for them.

"They were only six weeks' old when they arrived and had literally just been separated from their mother, so they needed a lot of tender loving care.

"But from timid, delicate, precious little darlings, within a week or two I had four very adventurous and lovable rascals in my care.

"Photographing them together was particularly challenging until I decided to put them all on the top shelf of a rather tall cat climbing frame I had.

"To my amazement they all sat bolt upright, looked at the camera and did everything but smile for me!

"Cats Protection are always looking for new fosterers, as the more we have the more cats we can care for until they are found a forever home."



**Ember the snake lives in Deal with Sarah Dunford.**

Ms Dunford said: "Here is my beautiful girl Ember, an Abbott's Okeetee corn snake, having her dinner. She loves climbing branches, hiding amongst leaves, and even having a swim in a warm bath, no bubbles of course!"



**Jack the cat lives in Dover with Anna Mitchell.**

Ms Mitchell said: "Jack is 11. He likes killing wool and dangly things, though he gets embarrassed if people catch him being kitteny.

"He talks a lot - very vocal. He loves treats and belly rubs. He has a bald ring around his neck caused by a bad flea collar when he was a kitten - one that actually killed several cats so he was lucky.

"He likes to teach my sister's kittens to hunt and get up to mischief, basically how to knock treat bags onto the floor so he can eat them. He also enjoys anything - and I mean anything - minty."

***If you would like pictures of you pet to be included in our next Love Your Pet feature, email us at editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.***


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# Six of the best gadgets for your pets

IF you're thinking about splashing out on a present for your furry friend, why not get them a nifty gadget to enjoy?

Ranging from laptops to tennis ball launchers, there is plenty to choose from.

Here are six of the best gadgets to help keep your pet entertained....




There are plenty of gizmos to keep your pet happy and

### Lap cat

***Kitty Laptop, £19.95, from www.prezzybox.com***

Whether you've got a big desktop computer or just a small tablet, the second you turn on your device, you can be certain that's also the moment your cat will saunter on over and demand attention – perhaps even sitting on the keyboard to make their point clear.

So, why not set up one of their own? Granted this isn't a laptop with tech capabilities – it's actually a flat-packed cardboard toy – but it does come with a scratchy keyboard for them to dig their claws into.

To make the experience complete, print off pictures and slide them into the 'screen' for them to focus on while they're getting their computer fix and playing with the life-like mouse.

### Dart around

***Frolicat Dart Cat Toy, £35, from www.petsathome.com***

If your cat needs to burn off some energy, switch this gadget on and watch them run around desperate to 'catch' the laser light blasting out of it.

The dart will need to be placed on the floor, then it's a case of choosing from four speeds and timer settings.

The laser light will jump from place to place – infuriatingly so for your feline – and goes around in circles too.

Your cat will enjoy the chase and you'll enjoy not having to clear up after a traditional 'hunt'!

Requires 3x AA batteries.

### Play time

***IFetch Automatic Tennis Ball Launcher Dog Toy, £135, from www.petsathome.com***

Playing fetch with your dog is fun for the first 200 times, but if you get tired and they want to continue, this toy will pick up where you left off.

It automatically launches the ball so your four-legged friend can run to pick it up.

Train them to drop the ball back into the gizmo and your dog will be able to amuse itself when you're out of the room or garden.

The iFetch comes with three balls, each 4cm in diameter which means it's a great toy for smaller dogs, but isn't quite so suitable for larger ones. It requires 6C batteries.

### Eat up

***PetSafe 5 Meal Pet Feeder, currently priced £38.79, from www.amazon.co.uk***

If you're out all day and would prefer your cat or dog to eat little and often rather than have one big – often messy – bowl of food, this gadget is perfect.

There are five compartments for the food, however, four of the compartments will be covered, meaning only one is accessible to your pet to scoff from at a time. Just set the easy-to use timer to decide when the next compartment will become available.

Very straight-forward to use and sturdy enough that your pet won't be able to prise it open, it could be a great option especially if your pets demand an early morning feed and you want a lie-in. 4 D batteries are required.

### Keep track

***Motorola Scout 5000 Connected GPS Dog Collar, £199.99, available November from www.amazon.co.uk***

OK, you might be hesitant to spend such a sum on a dog collar, but this is pretty much the most techie thing your woofer could own. This takes the 'wearable tech' tag line to the next level.

At the front of the collar, you'll find a small black box which comes with GPS tracking and a camera so you can see exactly what your dog is doing and where it is.

It doesn't end there though, it also includes two-way audio communication, so, if as soon as you leave the house Rover jumps up on your bed even though he's banned from it, or you can see he's antagonising your cat, you can tell him to behave.

### Feel the heat

***Self-heating pet bed, £19.99, www.presentsformen.co.uk***

From cats finding the warmest spot in the garden to sunbathe in, to dogs curling up in front of the fire, our pets are just as keen on keeping toasty as we are. That's why they'll love this bed.

On the outside it might look like just a snugly, faux-sheepskin bed, but on the inside, hi-tech fabric absorbs the heat coming from the animal and reflects it back, so after just a few minutes of lying on top of it, your pet will be lovely and warm.

Perfect for the colder months or for older pets who struggle to get comfortable.



# Coat campaign keeps dogs warm

A CAMPAIGN organised -by Pets Corner has helped to provide homeless dogs with coats to keep them warm.

The family-run pet retailer asked for customers and animal-lovers to donate pre-owned, new or handmade dog coats throughout November and December.

Some 224 coats were given to animal charity Give a Dog a Coat – and they will be distributed to homeless dogs across the country.

People had been asked to drop donations off at one of Pets Corner's stores.

The store, which has branches in areas including Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone, Paddock Wood, Canterbury and Ashford, matched each of the donated coats with a treat for the dogs to enjoy.

Give a Dog a Coat was set up by Lara Evans, who was upset by seeing homeless, cold and shivering dogs during winter.

She felt the need to help and started knitting and sewing dog coats.

When she couldn't keep up with the demand, she started an appeal asking others to donate second hand or homemade dog coats of their own.

Ms Evans said: "We have been overwhelmed by the response and we would like to thank Pets Corner for collecting the coats and everyone who has made a donation and supported us with this initiative.

"The coats will make a huge difference to the lives and wellbeing of homeless dogs during the colder months."

Managing director at Pets Corner, Dean Richmond, added: "It's tragic that in 2016 there are so many homeless dogs across the UK.

"We are delighted to be supporting Give a Dog a Coat and cannot thank our customers enough for their enthusiasm, generosity and support."





**DELIGHT:** Julie Milton of Pets Corner and Give a Dog a Coat's Lara Evans with some of the donations

It's still not too late to donate a coat to Give a Dog a Coat.

You can either drop off your donation at one of Pets Corner's stores or visit the Give a Dog a Coat Facebook page for more information.




# feedback

## your say...

Send us your views.
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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

## Thanet hurt by hospital trauma

ONCE again we hear the Medway Maritime Hospital (MMH) has been found by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to be inadequate, particularly in the A&E department – even after being given an extra £13 million pounds to help towards its improvement (KoS, 10.01).

Believe it or not, this hospital along with the William Harvey Hospital at Ashford, was designated to become a 'trauma unit' serving amongst others, the people of Thanet.

Both EKHUFT (East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust) and TCCG (Thanet Clinical Commissioning Group) seem happy for this situation to remain. There are no apparent plans to re-designate a different hospital.

Meanwhile, people in Thanet, a recognised deprived area, have to pay more to access their healthcare because very much of it is done outside the area, mainly at the William Harvey and may even be done at the Medway Maritime. You couldn't make it up, could you?

**Betty Renz,**
via email

## Tackling issue of foreign drivers

SO 'foreigners' are getting away with motoring fines and some readers have wished for more cooperation between EU countries to claw back those fines (Letters, last week). But, what is the other side of the story?

Nearly every month there is some scandal where councils have wrongly issued fines, or somebody has taken the police to court and proved their innocence for a speeding fine.

When found out 'officialdom' might put their hands up and admit they were wrong in that one case, but let similar alleged offences to illegally stand and allow other drivers with fines/points go un-rescinded. So how possibly would foreign drivers get refunded?

If you got a speeding/parking ticket from some village you could not recall in say the south of France, would you travel all the way back and try to defend yourself, in a language you could not speak, in a total alien judiciary system and laws as complicated and complex as ours? Easy to target 'foreigners' for easy fine money, when they have little chance of defending themselves.

Other countries suffer the same problems as us, corrupt officialdom and the demand to meet 'targets'.

I think of the Dartford Crossing being a good example. Foreigners coming across from Dover/Channel Tunnel onto a toll free motorways do not realise that the short Dartford Crossing is tolled and if they did; how to pay? What information is available? Certainly there is not much at the crossing to say it is any different from say crossing the M2 Medway bridge.

Yet, some demand we chase these foreigners up and fine them for non payment. Even the official government website is only in English.

With EU governments spending millions of pounds trying to demonize car ownership and trying to make driving as un-pleasant as possible, let us not help them in their endeavours, what ever country we happen to be born in.

**Terry Hudson,**
Whitstable

## LETTER OF THE WEEK



## Long list of why we should get out of EU

REASONS to exit the European Union? (KoS, 17.01) - I feel like a kiddy in a sweet shop!

How about the EU Court of Human Rights costing us £2 million-plus to house and give legal aid to Abu Hamza, plus £33,800 a year benefits for his family, so he could block roads and preach our death and destruction?

How about the more than 1,500 foreign rapists, murderers and paedophiles, claiming being sent home would breach their human rights? And I could go on.

How about the EU procurement process, which meant steel contracts were given to Poland and Spain, for inferior steel to build the new 'cracking up' Forth Road bridge, while Tata steel was less than 40 miles away?

What about Bombardier losing 1,400 jobs because of contracts awarded to Germany, for the same reason?

How about us losing the right to fish in our own waters; one fisherman given an allowance of half a cod?

Lowestoft, Grimsby and other traditional fishing towns brought to their knees.

Talking of 'brought to their knees', Greece made a basket case thanks to EU stupidity and intransigence over the Euro, costing the rest of us billions that could been better used.

Or the £55m a day cost, or the mass immigration, or the £933 extra a year we pay on our bills? Having to get approval from 27 other countries with their own selfish interests before we can do anything?

The EU banning of river dredging contributing to flooding?

It's a long and very depressing list of the madness our 'wee timerous beasties' haven't the balls to do anything about, so the only answer is exit.

**Phil Granger**
West Malling

## We need third crossing now

I DO so agree with John Baker about the Dartford Crossing (Letters, 10.01).

We should have had a third crossing years ago as it was already obvious when the QEII Bridge was being built it was never going to be enough, especially now with lorries coming up from the Channel Tunnel.

My son-in-law has to regularly use the crossing and has said removing the toll booths has not made a scrap of difference.

I do understand and sympathise with people near Gravesend and that they are concerned over their greenery and woodland but before long there will be no choice.

There is definitely no room in Dartford for another crossing so it is utterly ridiculous to push for one there.

This county is not really built to take all the traffic that is now expected to go on it.

**SJ Kemp,**
New Ash Green

## Let rich pay to help the horses

WITH the RSPCA in Kent having to cope with the distressing crisis of horses who have been left for dead by the roadside to die (KoS, last week), the rich and the superrich of the county should help.

They could spare a chunk of their fortune in donations to ensure that these beautiful animals are rescued from this situation.

**Rosie Johnston,**
Ightham

## Trade means it's time to leave

THE EU referendum is of paramount importance for our future and our democracy.

So why are our politicians playing games rather than laying out all the figures, for both sides of the argument, so that we may make an informed decision?

Our negative balance of trade with the EU guarantees an excellent free trade agreement if "the leave" vote wins and as it stands - we must leave.

**Edward La Coste,**
Lamberhurst

## Bowie: Gone but not forgotten

THANK you for your coverage of David Bowie last weekend - he was and remains a truly inspiring figure.

**T James,**
Tonbridge

## KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

**Kent on Sunday will:**

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

**We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.**

# images of kent



## Penshurst Place
by **David Strydom**

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| HYUNDAI DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION | £500.00 |
| TOTAL | £3,248.75 |
| CASH PRICE OF VEHICLE | £12,995.00 |
| TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDIT | £9,746.25 |
| INTEREST CHARGES | £1,472.33 |
| TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE | £14,467.33 |
| OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT | £4,377.50 |
| DURATION OF AGREEMENT | 37 MONTHS |
| APR REPRESENTATIVE | APR 6.9% |
| INTEREST FIXED | 3.55% PA |
| EXCESS MILEAGE CHARGE PER MILE | 14.9P |
| ANNUAL MILEAGE | 10,000 |




### HYUNDAI i10 S 1.0

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HYUNDAI SAVING OF £1,000

| | |
|---|---|
| MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF | £112.52 |
| CUSTOMER DEPOSIT OF | £1,998.75 |
| HYUNDAI DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION | NIL |
| TOTAL | £1,998.75 |
| CASH PRICE OF VEHICLE | £7,995 |
| TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDIT | £5,996.25 |
| INTEREST CHARGES | £923.22 |
| TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE | £8,918.22 |
| OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT | £2,868.75 |
| DURATION OF AGREEMENT | 37 MONTHS |
| APR REPRESENTATIVE | APR 6.9% |
| INTEREST FIXED | 3.55% PA |
| EXCESS MILEAGE CHARGE PER MILE | 14.9P |
| ANNUAL MILEAGE | 10,000 |



### HYUNDAI i20 SE

HYUNDAI DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION OF £250.00

From £10,995

HYUNDAI SAVING OF £2,030

| | |
|---|---|
| MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF | £150.43 |
| CUSTOMER DEPOSIT OF | £2,498.75 |
| HYUNDAI DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION | £250.00 |
| TOTAL | £2,748.75 |
| CASH PRICE OF VEHICLE | £10,995.00 |
| TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDIT | £8,246.25 |
| INTEREST CHARGES | £1,286.73 |
| TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE | £12,281.73 |
| OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT | £4,117.50 |
| DURATION OF AGREEMENT | 37 MONTHS |
| APR REPRESENTATIVE | APR 6.9% |
| INTEREST FIXED | 3.55% PA |
| EXCESS MILEAGE CHARGE PER MILE | 14.9P |
| ANNUAL MILEAGE | 10,000 |

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By Steve Loader
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**HALO EFFECT:** watch out for the 124 Spider… reviving a FIAT star of the 1960s





**ADDING TO 500:** the 500X has given entry to the crossover sector

# FIAT is enjoying its 500 dividend

**BRAND UPDATE:** Italian marque has soared with the number 500 and will add to that with halo and hatchback arrivals this year...

FIAT has revived its fortunes over the past few years, and it's down to the number 500 or cinquecento.

The retro supermini of 2007 not only echoed the styling of the 1957-vintage Nuova 500 – itself helping FIAT to new heights during a production run lasting nearly two decades – but also reiterated the Italian marque's brilliance in small car design, dating back to the original 1936 500 Topolino.

Since the modern 500 arrived, the same number has also been applied to a series of funky and practical MPVs – the 500L series – and a classy crossover, the 500X.

Backed by financial wherewithal derived from the 500, FIAT has also taken over and revitalised the American Chrysler group, looks to have finally come to grips with restoring Alfa Romeo to its rightful position as a premium sporting car brand, and is now addressing two further issues.

The first is the creation of a true halo car and the other is finding a big brother to the 500 to attack the VW Golf, Ford Focus and Vauxhall Astra.

The former task seems settled: FIAT has looked to its glorious past again and recreated its beautiful 1960s roadster, the 124 Spider, by basing it on Mazda's latest and possibly greatest MX-5.




**ARRIVING SOON:** the hatchback version of the new Tipo saloon

Using the Mazda's legendary chassis and balance, but an elegant bespoke design and FIAT group engines, the 'Nuova' Spider should be a winner when it appears mid-year.

Arriving at about the same time, the new hatchback is tipped to revive the Tipo name applied to FIAT's lacklustre 1988 contender in the same class.

It will be a belated replacement for the Bravo, itself a namesake for a previous effort in the same territory. But if Tipo fails again, FIAT might have to revive Strada or even Mirafiori as possible names... or add something to 500.




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Fuel consumption figures for Fiat 500X Range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 32.5 (8.7) – 61.4 (4.6); Extra Urban 49.6 (5.7) – 74.3 (3.8); Combined 42.2 (6.7) – 68.9 (4.1). $CO_2$ emissions 157 – 107 g/km. Fuel consumption and $CO_2$ figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. *Customer deposit is £3,463. Fiat deposit contribution is £500. Total deposit is £3,963. Optional Final Payment is £6,745. Contract Term is 24 months. Promotion available on new Fiat 500X Pop 1.6 E-Torq registered between 5th January and 31st March 2016. Fiat Deposit Contribution only available in conjunction with Fiat i-Deal PCP. With Fiat i-Deal you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 10,000 miles per annum in this example) and being in good condition. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Terms and Conditions apply. At participating Dealers only. Fiat Financial Services, PO BOX 4485, Slough, SL1 0RW. We work with a number of creditors including Fiat Financial Services.




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Fuel consumption figures for new Fiat 500 range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 51.4 (5.5) – 68.9 (4.1); Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3) – 94.2 (3.0); Combined 60.1 (4.7) – 83.1 (3.4). $CO_2$ emissions 110 – 88 g/km. Fuel consumption and $CO_2$ figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

# Mazda2... just too much for most rivals

## Classy Japanese supermini offers premium brand values and eco savings at mainstream prices, all packaged with great sporting style, writes **Steve Loader...**

**Mazda2 1.5 90ps Sport Nav**

| | |
|---|---|
| Price: | from £15,395 |
| Driving appeal: | ★★★★★ |
| Image: | ★★★★★ |
| Space: | ★★★★★ |
| Value: | ★★★★★ |
| Running costs: | ★★★★★ |
| How green?: | ★★★★ |
| Best rival: | Ford Fiesta |

AT the risk of sounding like an old fashioned long-playing record, Mazda hasn't released a duff track lately.

I wrote glowing reports on three new models last year - the Mazda2 supermini, CX-3 junior crossover/SUV and the latest MX-5 – and the rest of the running order doesn't reveal a duffer either.

I've also just returned to the most junior, the Mazda2, and now fear my initial enthusiasm wasn't praiseworthy enough.

It's great to drive, looks slick, and is advanced enough to deliver high power to weight, great economy and low emissions. I just don't understand why they are not flying out of the showrooms even if prices (from £11,995) are slightly higher than some rivals.

Its looks echo the Kodo design language that both harmonizes yet makes the Mazda line-up stand out in the market.

But even this might not have helped the '2' in a market segment where compactness can suggest pudginess. Mazda's answer was an 80mm longer wheelbase than before plus 140mm extra length.

This also makes for a big cabin, seating five easily and oozing premium-ness - an impression upheld on the move.








Mazda has avoided big spending on blue sky technologies, recognizing that industry pioneers must recoup investment by licensing any successes anyway. The brand has concentrated instead on its homegrown Skyactiv suite of current technologies to deliver weight-saving, better aerodynamics, and more eco-friendly and economical yet powerful engines.

The 2's new 1.5-litre petrol engine is not turbocharged, yet it's sporty and free-revving with excellent economy and low emissions – the unit is available with 75PS (74bhp), 90PS and 115PS outputs and five or six-speed manual gearboxes, or a six-speed auto. There's a 105PS 1.5-litre diesel too, which I've yet to drive.

The chassis is exemplary: sporty, but without the teeth-rattling that afflicts some tautly set-up superminis.

Not only does the car feel secure on tight corners but there is little lean either, thanks to a body and chassis structure making generous use of lighter ultra-high tensile steels.

Admittedly, the newcomer can sound slightly 'busy' when you do exploit the peppy engine and chassis, but it's easily forgivable when there is so much to like – and all affordable.

The test car was a 90PS 1.5 petrol with upmarket Sport Nav spec (£15,395), but you don't need to go so upmarket; this is a well-made small car with generous trimmings.

I particularly like the no-nonsense dashboard; I have a beef about manufacturers channelling too many car controls through the touchscreen, but Mazda's MZD Connect system concentrates on audio and nav tasks and leaves heating/climate to three simple knobs just below the facia – why can't everyone do that?




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Jeep

Model shown Jeep Renegade 2.0 MULTIJET 140hp Longitude 4WD at £23,895 including Special Pastel Paint at £500. OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR JEEP RENEGADE RANGE MPG (L/100KM): EXTRA URBAN 47.9 (5.9) – 70.6 (4.0), URBAN 32.5 (8.7) – 55.4 (5.1), COMBINED 40.9 (6.9) – 64.2 (4.4), $CO_2$ EMISSIONS: 160 – 115 G/KM. Fuel consumption and $CO_2$ figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. *Customer deposit is £5,845. Jeep Deposit is £1,500. Total Deposit £7,345. Optional Final Payment is £11,973. Contract Term is 24 months. Promotion available on Jeep Renegade 2.0 MultiJet 140hp Longitude 4WD at £23,895 including Special Pastel Paint registered by 31st March 2016. Jeep Deposit Contribution only available in conjunction with Jeep Horizon PCP. With Jeep Horizon you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 9p per mile for exceeding 10,000 miles per annum in this example) and being in good condition. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Terms and Conditions apply. Jeep Financial Services, PO Box 4465, Slough, SL1 0RW. Jeep® is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC.

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# Women Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**DANCE** partner 65-75 sought by Maureen, Thanet based lady, slim, brown hair, green eyes, seeking dancing, fun and friendship **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420231**

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673**

**SINGLE** slim female, 68, n/s, GSOH, likes cooking, walking etc, seeks male, single, slim 65-70, n/s, with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420091**

**DISCREET** man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 3006 Box 418167**

**SLIM** female GSOH, 5'3, Likes walking, pub lunches, days out, looking for soul mate, smart appearance, similar interests N/S GSOH, easy going. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4762600**

**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715**

**KIND** lady, 50s, been broken hearted, seeks kind, genuine man for caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419889**

**LUCY** first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3026 Box: 420237**

**CHANTELLE,** 5ft3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy. Littlehampton. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883**

**PAT,** slim, single, 68, non-smoker, GSOH, likes going for walks etc, seeks male, slim, single, 66-70, non-smoker, clean-shaven, GSOH, with similar interests. Canterbury area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081**

**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399**

**MARION,** early 70s, young at heart, GSOH, active, likes walking, gardening, meals out, travel, theatre and animals, looking for male friendship to share interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419657**

**SALLY,** 24yrs tall brunette with feminine curves seeks mature older chap, 35+ for discreet fun only, must be experienced. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3030 Box: 420247**

**TRACY**, 41yrs, married but bored, seeking some stimulating fun with chap any age. **Text only. Box 4073958**

**MARIE,** very lonely middle-aged woman, looking for a kind hearted older man, late 70s/early 80s for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418955**

**STACY,** 39yrs, husband away, give me a call, I am cold and lonely this winter. **Text only. Box 4146451**

**RACHEL** late 40s, blonde, blue eyes and very voluptuous. Looking for a kind, caring honest man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418741**

**IONA**, 51yrs, very young looking and ready for some fun times. You should be over 35yrs and up for a laugh. Text only. **Box 4012712**




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**AMANDA,** 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418117**

**HELEN,** widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243**

**FEMALE**, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeks caring male for fun friendship maybe more, genuine calls only. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4819793**

**GORGEOUS** flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435**

**FEMALE** easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603**

**PAT,** 68, young at heart, slim, proud 4' 11" GSOH, N/S, likes walking etc Whistable area, seeks similar slim easy going male 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081**

**SUSIE** fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537**

**HAPPY** young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383**

**KATIE,** 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127**

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**NICE** female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874**

**BLONDE** female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025**

**JAN** 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349**

**ATTRACTIVE** lady early 50's, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, WLTM professional, caring gent, 50-60's for attention and future together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569**

**FEMALE** seeking male for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413809**

**RACHEL** attractive, blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, seeking kind, honest, generous kind male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418403**

**JAN** 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349**

**ALISON** 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517**

**ALISON** 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497**

**TERESA** 39, petite, cuddly and bubbly seeks kind older male to travel, have fun, and take care of, pamper and flirt with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416081**

# Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**PROFESSIONAL** gentleman, just retired, own house, likes holidays, reading, cinema, WLTM similar professional lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420767**

**HASTINGS** male, 51, 5ft10, medium-build, blue eyes, fair hair, fun loving, seeks female, 30-55, for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420745**

**CLINT,** 37, kind, caring, honest and WLTM someone of any age who is similar and looking for a relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419951**

**HEALTHY** 61yr old male, N/S, medium build, likes France, cooking, gardening, seeks female, 50-60 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 286360**

**ATTRACTIVE** white gent, 48, 56ft, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025**

**BROWN** eyed white mature, handsome male, seeking black female, 18-50 for discreet no strings adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410377**

**SIX** foot guy, mature, looking for someone special to spend some quality time with. Please leave me a message I would love to hear from you! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420163**

**NEVILLE** 5ft 6ins, Caribbean, likes wine, nights in, seeks female to spend the rest of his life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333911**

**MALE** 50, GSOH, looking for soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387485**

**DEBORAH** 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515**

**ATTRACTIVE** black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215**

**MAY** sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks generous friendly male for mutual rewarding friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211**

**MALE,** 60, medium build, gosh, seeks attractive female, under 50, for no strings, discreet, daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420621**

**JANINE** 36, faithful, sincere, will never stray seeking similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414629**

**DAVE** 46, seeks active female for walking, climbing and outdoor fun. Days out and evenings in. Friendly and GSOH. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5338933**

**PROFESSIONAL** gentleman, just retired, own house, loves holidays, WLTM a lady for meals out, and to enjoy each others company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419751**

**SIX** foot guy, mature, looking for someone special to spend some quality time with. Please leave me a message I would love to hear from you! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420163**

**HUBERT,** lives in Rochester, single, lonely, looking for someone to get together with and make something happen and enjoy the rest of life with! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420049**

**PAUL** 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077**

**GARETH** handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421**

**MALE** 56, likes good conversation, seeks older lady for discreet friendly fun, 50 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419201**

**YOUNG** 60yr old male, knows how to treat a lady, seeking special lady to spoil for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417909**

**MALE** 70's, fit, looking for lady to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416663**

**MICK** 50, seeks attractive female for nice times out, genuine calls only. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417691**

**PAUL** 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

**PAUL** GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970**

**PROFESSIONAL,** romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**PAUL** 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985**

**MALE** 51, 5ft 8ins, N/S, GSOH, easygoing, seeks slim female, 18-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338269**

**ROCKABILLY** guy, seeks rock chick, 25-50 who likes 50's rock music and bands. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 284750**

**WHITE** Knight 59 5'10 tall, OHAC, in shining armour, looking for Damsel in Distress of similar age to share fun & laughter. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5073004**

**CALM,** kind and good company, male seeking a lovely lady for good times and fun and loving. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419733**

**50YR** old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641**

**MALE** 47, builder, seeks lady for companionship and closeness, age and looks unimportant. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4924811**

**MATTHEW,** five foot eleven, looking for a mature lady for discreet friendship and a few laughs. Dartford area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419469**

**45** year old male, looking for a happy intelligent friendly female for company and evenings in or out, looks or race unimportant. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5063649**

**JOHN,** 47, six foot two, well-built, handsome, non-smoker, intelligent and funny, doesn't take himself too seriously, easy to get along with, seeks attractive female, any age, for discreet, adventurous, any time fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419461**



**NICE** looking genuine man would like to meet nice lady any age for company, outings with GSOH. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4922399**

**ANDREW,** 63, likes animals, walking, boot fares, shopping, looking for someone similar living in the Maidstone/Kent area, for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419203**

**RICHARD** 59 from East Kent. WLTM genuine female 50 plus for friendship! **Text only to Mailbox No: 4448765**

**MALE** 56 yrs, GSOH, n/s, would like to meet a lady to have happy times, lots of love to give, to enjoy good times in and out. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4181244**

**MIKE** Canterbury mature male, seeks single mum/lady, 28-42, slim-medium build for loving, caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415275**




**MALE,** 39, tall, hardworking, 6ft 2, looking for long-term lover/older woman. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418877**

**WRITER** tall, slim, dark hair, generous, seeking broadminded lady for fun times. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412749**

**SUGAR** Daddy available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady, age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889**

**SIMON,** 50, actor, loves music, films, reading, writing, loopholes, ambiguity, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia, WLTM a pretty leggy female, 35 years plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418827**

**MALE** 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535**

**50YR** old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419203**

**49YR** old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929**

**48YR** old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789**

**BARRY** 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for wining, dining and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787**

# Gay Seeking

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**BI** guy heavy build, WLTM assertive adventurous white or Indian guy for mutual pleasure. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4321273**

**SUBMISSIVE** bi male, clean and shaven, looking for similar male, n/s, for adult fun, can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420413**

**SENIOR** bi male, 70s, n/s, clean-shaven, living in the Maidstone area, seeking similar bi male, aged 50-60, in the Maidstone area, for myself to give service to. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420219**

**BI** male 57 slim GSOH seeks local guy for fun and friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4751943**

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commercial VEHICLES

A buyer's guide

# Vans load up record sales growth

SALES of commercial vehicles hit an all-time high in the UK last year, with the van sector leading the charge.

The result was a 16.7 per cent surge to 423,894 units against commercial vehicle sales in 2014, with a record set for vans – 15.6 per cent higher at 371,830 registrations, and surpassing the previous best in 2007.

The trend also shows that the market has not only recovered, but is now ahead of its pre-recession buoyancy.

Industry body, the SMMT, attributes the particular demand in the van sector largely to the online shopping boom and manufacturers' attractive finance deals.

If you take the view - as many financial pundits do - that demand for vans is a barometer for the economic climate, then it's also good news for the confidence and health of UK PLC.

And a sharp contrast to the picture after the recession hit in 2007, with registrations for vans - the oil on the wheels of British business, construction and manufacturing - plunging as operators sought desperately for economies, retaining and punishing vehicles by clocking up more miles than they would normally.

However, this practice was also bound to accelerate recovery by creating a used van market full of tired stock that made it even more attractive for increasingly confident owners and operators to re-equip with new vehicles – and so the upward trend continues.

■ Read on for tips on how to choose your next workhorse, plus a spotlight on the Vauxhall Vivaro



**ALL OPENINGS COVERED:** the mid-size FIAT Scudo shows its loading versatility



**RENAULT FLAGSHIP:** as the name implies, the Master heads the French marque's van range


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# Vans getting savvy

BOXES on wheels they may be, but vans have become increasingly sophisticated lately.

Operators have seen efficiencies and flexibility soar, while drivers have enjoyed better performance, refinement and safety.

Load capacities have also grown, varying from as little as three cubic metres for a car-derived courier van, right up to a 17 cubic-metre delivery van.

Access has improved too. Many larger vans have low floors in the driving compartment for easy access and most come with a sliding side door to ease loading, with many buyers taking the option of a second 'slider'. There is now a usually a choice of side-opening twin rear doors or a high lift tailgate.

Another recent option is the 'Dualiner', seating five yet still carrying cargo; ideal for companies needing to send a crew on the road plus gear, or the owner operator who carries tools and kit on weekdays and the family at weekends.

And vans are being sold differently too with tempting lease and purchase plans.

Hi-tech powertrains – including emission-free electric vans like Renault's Kangoo ZE – have created a niche for operators delivering in towns, but diesels are the dominant power source, offering economy and range, good low down pulling power, extended service periods, cheaper maintenance, and longer lasting parts.

Six-speed manual gearboxes are the norm – two cogs better than a few years ago – but urban operators are turning to automatic, semi-automatic or clutch-less transmissions.

These can usually be driven with manual selection anyway, but suit stop-start urban conditions where they can be as economical as a manual.

For hilly and rural areas where weather can affect operations, some vans can be specified with a special traction control allowing the front-wheel drive vehicle to grip and manoeuvre like it has all-wheel drive – just what you need in tricky conditions.










**THREE TAKES ON KEEPING IT SMALL:** the Citroen Nemo, Fiat Doblo and Renault Kangoo – the last is now offered with electric power

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# Van of Hope and Glory

## Luton-built Vauxhall Vivaro must appeal to White Van Man's patriotic streak as well as his love of simple comforts writes Steve Loader...

VAN drivers love to wave the flag, whether it be a Cross of St George or the Union Flag.

So Vauxhall's Luton-built Vivaro panel van will appeal, especially as the sector-leading Ford Transit is no longer made here, and the Vivaro's cloned sister, the Renault Trafic comes – not surprisingly, from across the Channel.

But owners and operators should consider the Vivaro for more than patriotic reasons: its predecessor proved stylish and reliable and there's no reason to expect the 'Mark 2', launched in 2014, to be any different.

There are also several body options before considering a bespoke add-on: short and long wheelbase and standard and high roof. Amazingly though, there is essentially just one powertrain: a 1.6-litre diesel with six-speed 'box, but available in several power outputs. Economy unladen can be as good as 47.9mpg (combined).

The test vehicle was a long wheelbase with 120bhp unit, moving the unladen Vivaro with zip and refinement, but featuring an 'eco' button to keep you honest.

And I proved an argument advanced at the start of this supplement: that vans – even panel vans like the Vivaro – now mirror cars more and more.




Apart from its bulk, the Vivaro felt nimble yet well-controlled on the bends and, while the expanse to the left of me was very un-carlike, the dashboard was very familiar.

Indeed, there were certain aspects I liked more than in some everyday cars, like the no-nonsense three-dial heater controls; White Van Man (WVM) doesn't have the patience, and nor do I, to wander through layers of touchscreen twaddle to set the cab temperature at 21 centigrade. If it's too hot, quickly and directly whack the knob up a notch, too cold and... well, you get the picture.

Similarly, I liked the steering column pod mounted radio controls; always in the same place, they make it easy to adjust volume and station – again, more direct than a touchscreen.

Lots of stowage space is welcome: two lidded compartments on the passenger side, deep door pockets, plus a big dashtop bin, and plenty of room ahead for empty Coke tins and The Sun against the windscreen.

WVM would also like the front doors on the Vivaro: opening to the first notch allows easy entry and exit in a confined space if you aren't carrying anything, but the second notch swings the door really wide, for when you've something tucked under your arm or over-indulged on roadside 'fat boy' breakfasts.

Of course, most cargo will reside in the back, so big easy-riding side sliders are welcome, while twin rear doors not only allow good access, but the right hander locks independently, for those occasional loads or ladders that need to poke out the left hand one.

### Vauxhall Vivaro 2900 1.6CDTi (120) ecoFLEX L2H1

| | |
|---|---|
| Price: | from £27,728 |
| Driving appeal: | ★★★★ |
| Image: | ★★★★ |
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Please send your completed application form quoting the reference number: RL/EDT575/SRKOS/Jan16 to londonrecruitment@archant.co.uk along with your CV and a covering letter explaining why you are suitable for the role and what you could bring to our news operation.

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**Qualifications and Experience**

- Maths and English GCSE A – C Grade or equivalent
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- Good working knowledge of Word/Excel/Outlook
- Exceptional customer service skills

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Gemma Preston, Business Officer & IG Manager on 01304 222682. Previous applicants need not apply.

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**Hours: 37.5 per week**
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**Salary: £15,950.14 per annum**

**Qualifications and Experience**

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To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Gail Cribbens, Nurse Manager on 01233 616201. Previous applicants need not apply.

**For a job description and application form please contact:**
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## LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

### LICENSING ACT 2003
### Application for Variation of a Premises Licence

We, Booker Limited, of Equity House, Irthlingborough Road, Wellingborough, NN8 1LT apply for a variation of a Premises Licence for the premises known as Booker Cash & Carry, 5-7 Lake Road, Rochester Industrial Estate, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3QZ to vary the Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 as follows:

Details of Variation :

**To vary the permitted hours for the sale of alcohol for consumption off premises as follows:**
**Monday-Sunday: 07:30-23:00**

Anyone who wishes to make representations regarding this application must give notice in writing to: The Licensing Authority, Council Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Representations must be received no later than **12 February 2016.** The application may be viewed between 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday to Friday at the above address or at www.tmbc.gov.uk. It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application, the maximum fee for which a person is liable assuming conviction for the offence is level 5 on the standard scale.

### MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009
### APPLICATION FOR THANET OFFSHORE WIND FARM EXPORT CABLE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that Thanet OFTO Ltd has applied to the Marine Management Organisation under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Part 4, for a marine licence to undertake operation and maintenance activities along Thanet export cable for the lifetime of the asset. Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Ramsgate Library, Guildford Lawn, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9AY.

Copies of the application and associated information may be viewed on line in the Public Register at www.gov.uk/check-marine-licence-register.

Representations or objections in respect of the application should be made in writing, giving an address to which correspondence relating to the representation or objection may be sent, to the Marine Management Organisation, Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7YH, or alternatively emailed to paul.kirk@marinemanagement.org.uk, within 28 days of 24/01/2016, quoting reference MLA/2015/00462

The Marine Management Organisation will pass to the applicant a copy of any objection or representation we receive.

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**Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School**
**Maidstone Road**
**Rochester**
**Kent ME1 3EL**
**Tel: 01634 844008**
**Email: office@sjwms.co.uk**
**Website: www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk**

An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1200 students including 320 in the co-educational Sixth Form
A member of The Williamson Trust

*'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted – "a buzz of excitement pervades the school"*

### Part Time Assistant Required

**Grade: D2 – Salary: £15,523 - £19,742 per annum (Full Time Equivalent)**

**Part Time Hours: 15 hours a week term time plus 5 Staff Development days pro rata (£5,311 - £6,755)**

We require Finance staff to support the central team of finance assistants within the Williamson Trust of secondary and primary schools.

You will be a motivated, conscientious and a reliable person able to work effectively as a member of a team as well as individually. Experience in a school finance office essential and using PS Financials accounting software would be an advantage.

OFSTED awarded the school an outstanding grade in every category in our most recent inspection, commenting that "students thrive within its distinctive ethos, enabling them to succeed academically and to develop into confident, well-rounded individuals who are prepared extremely well for their future lives."

The School has recently been designated one of the first 100 National Teaching Schools, has achieved a Medway Council Gold Award in recognition of excellence in its provision of CPD and is a National Support School.

If you are interested in working with bright, talented pupils, then please contact the P A to the Headteacher Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, (harrisonj@sjwms.co.uk) 01634 844008 or visit our website www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk where further details and an application form can be downloaded.

The Williamson Trust currently consists of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, The Hundred of Hoo Academy, High Halstow Primary School, Elaine Primary Academy, Allhallows Primary Academy, Stoke Community School and finally, as a co-sponsored academy, St James Church of England Primary Academy, all providing exceptional career development opportunities.

We are committed to the safeguarding and well-being of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Closing date for applications – **25th January 2016**
Interviews will take place week beginning – **1st February 2016**

***Aspire – Achieve – Excel***

## LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

### LICENSING ACT 2003

An application has been made by: **TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL** for the premises **ASSEMBLY HALL THEATRE, CRESCENT ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT, TN1 2LU.**

On the date of: **9th November 2015**

**Summary of the proposed licensable activities and the proposed hours of opening:**

**To remove the condition on the current licence relating to occupancy figures and to replace this condition with "maximum number of persons admitted to the premises as outlined by the Occupancy Figures in the Fire Risk Assessment Report attached to the application".**

**To extend the hours for all licensable activities to: Every day: 0800 to 02.00 the following day.**

**To extend the opening hours every day to 08.00 to 02.30 the following day.**

**Any person wishing to view details of an application may contact the Licensing Partnership on 01732 227004**

Any person wishing to make representation about the application should make them in writing on or before the : **7th December 2015**

**Licensing Partnership, PO BOX 182, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP**

**licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk**

**http://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-licensing**

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

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- Land adj to No 1 Prospect Park (Plot A), Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 0EQ
- Land adj to No 3 Prospect Park (Plot B), Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 0EQ
- Land at Godfreys Yard, North Farm Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN2

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# Hawkins to learn Masters lessons

## The Ditton star reached the final for the first time



Snooker

**By Tom Pyman**
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

**FOCUS:** Barry Hawkins enjoyed an excellent tournament until being beaten 10-1 by Ronnie O'Sullivan in the final

DITTON'S Barry Hawkins insists he will learn from his experience at the Masters last week.

The 33-year-old fell one step short of glory on Sunday as he was beaten 10-1 by Ronnie O'Sullivan at Alexandra Palace.

Getting to the final represented a strong display from Hawkins, who had not progressed past the first round prior to this year.

His journey began with a 6-3 victory over Joe Perry, before a 6-2 win over Mark Allen sent him to the semi-finals, where he produced arguably the shock of the competition in beating Judd Trump 6-4, making three centuries in the process.

He told KoS: "Obviously I was disappointed with my performance in the final, but it was a good tournament on the whole.

"Once I got that first win under my belt I really thought I was in the thick of the tournament - I was growing in confidence, and played better in each round until the final.

"I built the occasion up too much in my mind, and I think I've learned from the experience.

"I was playing the player rather than the balls, so hopefully next time I can focus less on Ronnie and just play my own game."

The World Championships are only three months away, but Hawkins is not dreaming of going one step further than he managed in 2013, with his focus entirely on other tournaments in the coming weeks.

"I'm not thinking about that right now," he said.

"I've had a bit of time off but the next few months are chock-a-block.

"Hopefully I can play some good snooker in that time and maybe even win something."

# Kennedy victorious at O2 on Haye undercard

Boxing

JOSH Kennedy was victorious in his bout with Elemir Rafael in front of thousands of boxing fans at the O2 Arena on Saturday night.

The 24-year-old super bantamweight from Folkestone won on points after dominating his six-round fight with the Slovakian on the undercard of David Haye's comeback against Mark de Mori, which lasted less than two minutes.

Kennedy told KoS afterwards: "He was a tough opponent but I felt in control throughout and to be honest I was disappointed I didn't get a stoppage having won by knockout in all my other fights.

"The bell saved him for four rounds out of six and I barely got hit.



**WIN:** Josh Kennedy. Photo: Sam Lort

"I didn't have any nerves, I was just excited about getting in the ring and doing what I love, and I got about 200 friend requests on Facebook when I got home so people have responded well.

"Everyone's told me it was the best fight of the night, probably including Haye's, because it went the distance, so hopefully his team will have a look back at it and there'll be more opportunities like this in the future."

Haye's fight, which barely lasted two minutes, was broadcast live on freeview channel Dave and Kennedy admitted he was disappointed there was no television footage of his bout, too.

"I'm really gutted they didn't show it and I want to apologise to all the fans I told to tune in.

"But like I say, hopefully people will look back at the footage, see what I can do, and I'll get another chance soon."

## Sport Shorts

» Email **sports@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **Tom Pyman** on **01233653477**

# Billings back up arrives as Rouse signs for Kent

KENT have snapped up former England Under-19 wicketkeeper-batsman Adam Rouse on a permanent deal.

The 23-year-old right-hander, born in Zimbabwe, featured for the club for a month in 2015 as cover for Sam Billings and also previously played for the second XI.

He said: "I'm very grateful to the Kent management for showing faith in me and allowing for this opportunity - I'm looking forward to getting stuck in. A lot of hard work lies ahead and I'm excited to get going.

"After my month there last year, I followed Kent's fortunes and there were some excellent white-ball performances so hopefully we can kick on this year and go a step or two further."

Head coach Jimmy Adams added: "Adam made a very good impression both on and off the field when he was with us last year.

"We are extremely happy to have such a talented young player in our squad."




**SIGNED:** Adam Rouse



**READY:** Unbeaten welterweight George Hennon

# Snodland star Hennon ready for March bout

UNBEATEN welterweight George Hennon says he is "100 per cent ready" for his next scheduled bout.

The 21-year-old Snodland pro will take on Newark fighter Fonz Alexander at the Grays Civic Hall on March 4 in his first six three-minute round contest.

He said: "I know it's a step up because he comes to win - he'll take a few risks and throws shots - which benefits me. I'm 100 per cent ready for it.

"I feel perfect now, no niggles at all.

"Everything's spot on, feeling really good. Getting the fitness back and the weight is coming off nicely.

"It's going to be a great night and there's plenty of new skills for me to showcase since my last performance, it's just getting better and better."

# Stones' Brown joins Leatherhead

LEATHERHEAD have announced the permanent signing of Maidstone United midfielder Alex Brown.

The 23-year-old completed a month-long loan with the Tanners last weekend and Leatherhead bosses made him an offer to join them for the rest of the season, where it is expected he will enjoy regular football he has found tough to get at the Gallagher Stadium.

Brown made a total of 139 appearances for the club, during which time the Stones enjoyed two promotions and a league cup title.

Former boss Jay Saunders said: "Browny has been absolutely brilliant during his time here.

"He wants the opportunity to be playing week in, week out and that's not something I can guarantee at this moment."

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# January blues?




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